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# A Few Hens

THE POULTRY PAPER FOR BEGINNERS.

VOL. 3.

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NO. 2.

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## EDITORIAL HINTS.

Be patient.  
Be satisfied.  
Be punctual.  
Be a student.  
Be energetic.  
Be up-to-date.  
Avoid egotism.  
Have an object.  
Try a trap nest.  
Be trustworthy.  
Kill the drones.  
Don't be stingy.  
Oh, ragged hens!  
Establish a trade.  
Don't be reckless.  
Neglect is cruelty.  
Welcome, showers!  
Pay strict attention.  
How the hens paint!  
Hail, American hen!  
Always do your best.  
Pluck hates laziness.  
Keep the best layers.  
Take a business view.  
Have working capital.  
Discourage self praise.  
Are your losses heavy?  
Begin on a small scale.  
Hens are bread winners.  
Well direct your energy.  
Cleanliness means profits.  
Cleanliness means health.  
Don't be changing breeds.  
Be careful of your mating.  
Cleanliness means comfort.  
A poultryman loves his home.  
Practical poultry for practical men.

## Experimental Farm Notes.

*The Record for the First Six Months of 1899—The Wyandottes Again are in the Lead—The Leghorns as Hens Did not do as Well as When Pullets—The Brahmams Make a Better Showing—The Egg Yield and Prices for the Month of June.*

The first six months' record (1899) of operations on the Experimental Farm, ended with the last day of June.

Our readers will remember that we began the year with the following stock:

White Wyandottes, 11 hens and 34 pullets, making a total of 45 Wyandotte females. We also had one cock bird and nine cockerels. We reserved four of the male birds and sold six.

Light Brahmams, 5 hens, 41 pullets and 14 cockerels. We reserved 3 cockerels for breeding, and disposed of the rest.

White Leghorns, 30 hens, 1 cock and one cockerel.

Pekin ducks, 10 ducks and 2 drakes.

The Pekin ducks laid 13 eggs in January; 65 in February; 212 in March; 158 in April; 142 in May. Total, 590 eggs, or an average of 59 eggs per duck. We sold the flock the last day of May, which ends our duck experience, at least for the present.

The receipts for eggs, both for family use and for hatching, were as follows:

January, 26 cents; February, \$1.30; March, \$5.19; April, \$3.76; May, \$3.79. Total, \$14.30.

One breeding duck died in May, and we received \$11 for the rest of the pen.

The Wyandottes laid in January 377 eggs; February, 259; March, 743; April, 729; May, 518; June, 533. Total, 3,159 eggs, or an average of a fraction over 71 eggs each.

The receipts of eggs, both for family use and hatching, were as follows:

January, \$7.32; February, \$4.96; March, \$43.86; April, \$42.54; May, \$28.50; June, \$31.98. Total, \$159.16.

During the six months we set 23 Wyandotte hens and pullets.

The Light Brahmams laid in January 48 eggs; February, 110; March, 407;

April, 548; May, 413; June, 284. Total, 1,810, or an average of a fraction over 39 eggs each.

June 26 we sold 16 hens out of our breeding pens.

The receipts for eggs, both for family use and hatching, were as follows:

January, 96 cents; February, \$1.82; March, \$22.44; April, \$36.56; May, \$21.48; June, \$16.38. Total, \$99.64.

During the six months we set 10 Brahma hens and pullets.

The Leghorns laid in January 203 eggs; February, 170; March, 474; April, 328; May, 296; June, 216. Total, 1,687 eggs, or a fraction over 56 eggs per hen.

The receipts for eggs, both for family use and hatching, were as follows:

January, \$4.06; February, \$3.40; March, \$28.44; April, \$17.70; May, 17.10; June, \$4.32. Total, \$75.02.

During the six months we set two Leghorn hens.

To these amounts must be placed fowls sold, as follows:

January, Brahmams, \$23.00; Wyandottes, \$3.60.

February, Wyandottes, \$11.00.

March, Wyandottes, \$5.00; Leghorns, 50 cents.

June, Brahmams, \$40.00.

This leaves the income as follows: Wyandottes, \$178.76; Brahmams, \$162.64; Leghorns, \$75.52; Ducks, \$25.30. Total, \$442.22.

We will give an account of feed and general expenses at the end of the year.

This year the Wyandottes averaged (for the first six months) a fraction over 71 eggs each. Last year it was 70. The Brahmams gave us 39 eggs each; last year 32. The Leghorns, 56 eggs each; last year they averaged 68. In the Wyandottes and the Brahmams the product was mainly from pullets; with the Leghorns it was all hens.

Not counting the expenses, last year 13 common hens gave an income of \$12.12. This year we had no mongrels.

Last year 35 Light Brahma females

gave an income of \$32.28. This year 46 females gave \$162.64.

Last year 12 Wyandotte pullets gave a profit of \$33.60. This year 45 pullets and hens made it \$178.76.

Last year 30 Leghorn pullets made the income \$80.08. This year they (hens) reached but \$75.52.

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Aside from this two acre experiment we are constantly at work upon other experiments, such as testing breeds, feeds and inventions. Many of these experiments are a loss to us—but what is our loss becomes our readers' gain, as we are continually making notes of the same.

One of our readers thinks we should charge ourselves with the feed, utensils, etc., that are given us. It would not be right. Many articles are sent us for investigation free of cost, but they do not go into our account with the two-acre experiment. We aim to keep that separate from all other poultry work we are doing.

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During the month of June our Brahmans laid 284 eggs; Wyandottes, 533 eggs; Leghorns, 216 eggs. This made a total of 1,033 eggs for the month, or a daily average of a fraction over 34 eggs. The highest number laid in one day was 45, and the lowest number 25.

Of eggs retailed, the highest price we received was 17 cents, the lowest 15 cents, average 16 cents.

#### Eggs and Egg Farming.

*Johnny's Version—Heavy Egg Exports—Eggs in Cold Storage—Destroying the Fertility of the Egg—Shipping Eggs to Havana—Eggs in the Paris Markets—Telling the Sex of Eggs.*

Old "Speckle" rose off from her nest  
And cackled with much vigor,  
As if to say, "That egg's my best,  
No hen can lay a bigger."  
While Johnny, standing near the gate,  
In mute contempt was gazing,  
As if he could not tolerate  
The fuss the hen was raising.  
His protege took her down a peg—  
He raised his voice to say it—  
"You fink you'er smart—Dad made zat egg—  
You toodn't help but lay it!"  
—*American Stock-keeper.*

Flavor the egg.

Have the nests airy.

Are your hens "going dry?"

The egg records are growing less.

Verily, the egg is wonderfully made.

Do not allow the nests to become filthy.  
Keep cracked eggs out of the market basket.

All hens are layers—when properly bred, fed and cared for.

Are the eggs you sell—like Caesar's wife—above suspicion?

What are your hens eating? Remember, "Pure Food Eggs" are in demand. Teaching a hen to eat her own eggs is best done by throwing the shells to her.

Keep the eggs so the air can strike them on all sides, or they will sweat and spoil.

Keeping eggs in a box or basket in a warm room is the quickest way of spoiling them.

Never was there such a demand for

"Fresh Pure-Food Eggs." Are you growing them? Holding the egg for a second in boiling water of 200 degrees F, has a tendency to kill the germ.

When marketing is done only once a week, keep the eggs in a cool cellar and turn them daily.

Great Britain spends upward of \$20,000,000 for foreign eggs, and the United States gets only \$78,339 of it.

The hens will lay just as well without the male bird in the pen, and besides it will be better for the hens that are beginning to look ragged.

Last year this country exported only \$27,961 worth of mutton against \$448,370 worth of eggs. *Rural New-Yorker* asks, What ails American mutton.

Of song birds the Nightingale is unquestionably the sweetest. But the common or garden bird is the one that pleases us most with its lay.—*Tit-Bits.*

Our neighbors who keep hens for eggs are great believers in corn for feed—and they supply their breakfast table with fresh eggs from our farm. We feed wheat and oats.

There will be plenty of fresh eggs next winter—fresh from ice houses, says *Farm Journal*. Of 45 carloads entering Chicago in one day, the greater part went into cold storage.

The outlook for better prices for eggs for the next year is good, says *Rural New-Yorker*. The quantity in cold storage is said to be less than usual at this season. Push along the pullets!

James Rankin says: We never have taken any precautions to prevent our eggs from hatching. Whenever we have a surplus, we are willing that others should have the benefit of them, so long as we can get no extra benefit ourselves.

In Paris markets the eggs are dated, and one pays according to the freshness, so that it is possible to be certain of newly-laid eggs; or, if it is necessary to be economical, yesterday's eggs, or the day's before, are offered at a reduction.

*Customer:* "Are those eggs strictly fresh?" *Shopman:* "Yes, sir. You haven't found anything wrong with the eggs you've been getting here for the last month, have you?" *Customer:* "No." *Shopman:* "Well, these are a part of the same lot."—*Tit-Bits.*

Many eggs are already being sent to Havana, but the lack of transportation facilities in the way of refrigeration is against the egg trade. The eggs are apt to become like the canned meat sent to the soldiers during the war, rather malodorous, says *Farm Journal*.

*Poultry Keeper* says the egg is an article of food at all times. Has Mr. Jacobs ever tried the product *preserved* by the methods he publishes? Honestly, an egg is an article of food only when manufactured by pure food, and is fresh—but Mr. Jacobs knows that as well as we do.

J. E. Stevenson, in *Rural New-Yorker*, says that the most practical and sure way of treating fertile eggs to prevent hatching, is by running a very fine needle through the shell. A Hamiltonian poultreer adopted that method but was compelled to quit it, as the

commission man he served declared that this puncture admitted the air, and the keeping qualities of the egg were soon destroyed.

It is astonishing how many people still live who know how to tell the sex of eggs before they are hatched, or as soon as they are laid, says *Texas Farm and Ranch*. Some tell us that long eggs always hatch females, while others tell us that such eggs always hatch males; and so it goes. All these people have tested the matter, and never knew it to fail. When we consider that each hen shapes her eggs to suit herself, and uniformly lays eggs of similar shape the absurdity of the shape theory becomes apparent.

#### About Broilers and Roasters.

*That Chicken Pie!—Squab Broilers—The Table Fowl—Thoroughbreds Best—Poultry in New Jersey—A Profitable Flock—Fattening Broilers—That American Prejudice—Pointers on Market Poultry.*

Our folks have jest cleaned up a chicken pie, An' nomminated me to tell the tale. Well, first we ketched a hen that hed her eye On settin'—when her egg desires got stale. Of course, we didn't do a thing to her, But chop her head off—she was butter fat, But sorter aged, if you judge her spur, But chicken pie, sez I, will settle that. They cut her up from wing way down to heart, The women folks—they soaked her overnight, And then they biled her till she fell apart, An' so'st the flavor would come out jest right, They biled an onion an' a lemon, too, Right with that chicken—then the children gnawed

The bones to start our appytite anew. Ma lined the dish with pie crust, then she drawed A cup of cream, an' beat an egg up white, With two big spoons of flour—they laid the meat Inside the dish—it made a hungry sight. Then mixed egg, cream and flour and soup complete An' poured it in—then put a crust on top, An' baked it till the smell jest seemed to fill The kitchen—but I guess I'll have to stop; My mouth's a-waterin' so my tongue stands still.

—*Rural New-Yorker.*

Squab broilers were in demand this season.

A fat young guinea is a gamey and savory table fowl, though the flesh is dark. Squab broilers brought as high as 90 cents per pair—equal to 60 cents per pound.

Dressed poultry should be well bled, well picked and well iced if shipped any distance in hot weather, says W. H. Rudd.

If you understand your business, says Mr. Rudd, there is no need of your not having the best grade of poultry produce.

*The Rooster:* "I never saw such a slow old-fashioned fowl as that hen over there." *The Duck:* "What can you expect from a *Philadelphia* broiler?"

*Mrs. Boardem:* "How do you find the chicken soup, Mr. Boarder?" *Mr. Boarder:* "I have no difficulty in finding the soup, Madam, but I am inclined to think the chicken will prove an alibi."—*Credit Lost.*

The table fowl is bred and reared to get the greatest quantity and best quality of flesh in one fowl, and should lay enough eggs to keep up the stock,

says Iowa *Homestead*. They should be of a large size when mature, and should have a large development of breast meat as compared with other fowls; they should grow rapidly and mature quickly.

The New York *Produce Review* says: Some poultry raisers make a practice of keeping pure-bred male birds and scrub hens, whereby a good grade of market poultry is produced. These growers would find it little more expensive to get pure-bred hens and raise pure-bred poultry, and in most cases the full-blooded stock would command a premium even if marketed in the wholesale market alive.

W. D. Dyerlee, before the Improved Stock Breeders' Association, of Iowa, said: "The little two-for-a-cent State of New Jersey, with an area of only 7,455 square miles, produces millions of dollars' worth of poultry annually, and raises some of the finest birds in the world. Such an industry then we should not be ashamed of, and it is worthy of the attention and fostering care of even this honorable association."

W. H. Rudd, in *Poultry Keeper*, says that during the month of February Boston commission houses pay 90 cents per pair for what are termed "squab broilers," weighing 3-4 to one pound each, and in large quantities at that—if a good quality, *i. e.*, plump, quickly grown and nicely dry picked; but chickens that have been 3 or 4 months in reaching this size are not wanted at any price, for they are liable to be tougher than owls.

Mr. Rudd says the cost of feeding newly-hatched chickens during the first 7 or 8 weeks is theoretically figured at one cent per week, but to be on the safe side we will call it two cents, although this is really about the cost of feeding the average adult fowl. The cost of feeding those chickens to 3-4 pound weight, say 7 weeks, cannot exceed 14 cents each, or 84 cents for the six. He sells them the last week in February, or when 7 weeks old, at 90 cents per pair.

T. C. Allen, of Glassboro, N. J., is probably the most expert, as well as the largest shipper of the famed Philadelphia chickens in this country, says *American Fancier*. All the poultry sold by Mr. Allen is especially grown for him by farmers within a radius of 25 miles of his home. Mr. Allen years ago was a firm believer in introducing Cochin blood into farmers' fowls, claiming that the progeny made the most saleable and superior roasters in the fall and winter. They had the weight and necessary finish, never becoming hard or tough. The extreme feathering now required on Cochins, in his estimation, is not conducive to the best results in the production of tender meat, no matter what cross is made.

At a farmers' institute in Iowa a lady read an essay telling how she made a profit of \$300 annually from a flock of about 75 hens. In the discussion that followed, one man, who said he could not spare time for taking care of his cornfield one year to build coops for the chickens, admitted that the chick-

ens and eggs his wife sold brought in more money than his corn. Another woman, who had sold \$420 worth of poultry to the local poultry dresser where she lived said that the men could talk poultry when the ground was frozen 5 feet deep, but when spring comes they will forget it all, and think of nothing but "corn and hogs, more corn, and more hogs."

A correspondent in *American Agriculturist* says: When nearly large enough for broilers, put the chickens into a pen having a shady side. Here give them clean, fresh water once or twice a day, and all the fattening food they can eat. Muscle and bone-making foods, remember, are not required. Corn in various forms, however, should be fed freely to them. Cooked corn, mashed corn, and ground corn, as well as whole corn, should be fed every day. Warm potatoes and bread crumbs will also make fat. Any kind of milk and a little sugar will likewise help along the fattening process, and this should be as fast as possible for, during these days the chick will eat considerable, and if they do not lay on fat every hour it will be a losing operation.

In pointing out how profitable squab broiler raising is, and how well it can be worked in with the raising of regular broilers and roasters, Mr. Rudd, in *Poultry Keeper* says: "Another thought comes right in here concerning brooders, which are more likely to be in short supply than any other equipment of a poultry farm, but our 3-4 and one pound chickens, if sold at these weights for squab broilers, will vacate their brooders at the very time we require them for early March-hatched chickens. Every poultry raiser and everybody competent to write a poultry book, knows that a prosperous chicken properly treated, will, in 30 days reach a weight of from 12 to 16 ounces (depending upon the breed, etc.) and that this is the exact weight required for squab broilers."

It is an odd fact that the great American poultry consuming public is greatly prejudiced in favor of the yellow-legged, yellow-fleshed fowl, says *Inland Poultry*. That it is merely a matter of fashion or fad, is amply proved by the fact that in other countries the preference is given to the white-meated birds. France is recognized as authority upon the edible qualities of all the foods devoted to the use of man, and in that sunny land the Houdan stands pre-eminent. They have been bred for generations for the express purpose of use as a table delicacy. They are a bird of medium weight and large breast predominance, being small boned and fine fleshed, with a small amount of offal, they are a profitable carcass for the consumer to purchase. In the great Paris markets huge piles of dressed Houdan and LaFleche fowls can be seen at the numerous stalls. These are reared in small flocks by the villagers adjacent to the city and sold to professional dealers who make the daily or weekly tours.

In some sections of this country, "celery finished" ducklings, those that are fed an abundance of celery the last

week before being marketed, command prices somewhat above the prevailing rates. There are generally enough private customers to take the supply. The New York *Produce Review* says if those who raise poultry for market thoroughly understood the importance of giving the poultry the best of wholesome food, better quality would be secured, new customers made, and higher prices prevail. Shippers of live poultry should never use coops which are too small to carry the poultry properly. Every once in awhile we notice a lot of turkeys, geese or other poultry in coops which are not high enough, and the poultry arrives in a cramped and wretched condition. Such stock will not command satisfactory prices, and furthermore, the commission receiver is apt to get himself into serious trouble with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals unless the stock is removed immediately into other coops, and these are not available at all times.

#### Ducks and Ducklings.

*Pointers Picked up From the Experiences of Many Duck Raisers—History of the Pekin—Mrs. Campbell's Year-Round Layers—American and English Methods of Fattening for Market.*

Ducks catch mice.

Ducks will not thrive under neglect. Bathing water keeps down surplus fat. Ducklings prefer being in large flocks. You can see the thrifty duckling grow. The duck in good health is always hungry.

In duck culture labor is an important item.

The Pekin duck is practically a non-sitter.

Indian Runners are becoming popular in the West.

The market carcass should be fat, plump and round.

Will the Indian Runner spoil the Pekin's popularity?

The Indian Runner has been admitted to the Standard.

It takes about two weeks to fatten a duck for market.

Duck fanciers are not so enthusiastic in creating new breeds.

The skin of the market duck should be one color throughout.

One way of making money out of ducks is to have a lot ready to sell when the season opens.

Ducks will lay on fat very rapidly and often get so fat that they will drop dead from a sudden fright.

Have double yards for each flock of ducks so that the one can be disinfected with a green crop while the other is being used.

When the Indian Runner duck has reached a marketable age, she has nearly completed her growth, and has little left to do but complete her plumage and begin to lay.

One of the most beautiful of small ducks is the Black East Indian. In size it is a counterpart of the Call duck; in shape there is a strong resemblance,

but in color it is one of the loveliest green blacks that ever the eye of mortal man rested upon.

Aylesbury ducks are favorites in the English market, and they are now being bred in Australia for export. Trial shipments to England were very satisfactory, and a big farm has been established in the Botany Bay district for the purpose of supplying this trade.

Never overfeed. It is an easy thing to tell when ducks are not hungry; they are slow about coming for their feed. When this is noticed put but little feed down for them, says G. A. McFetridge. When ducks are hungry they will remind one of so many pigs. They will run for their feed and tumble heels over head; then they will clean up their regular allowance.

J. T. Littleton, in *Poultry Monthly*, says one of the causes of the unpopularity of ducks is that to be most profitable they must either have access to a shallow pond or stream, or they must be fed more carefully than hens. The latter will do well on the farm, if fed only grain. But the duck that has no access to water, except what is in the drinking trough, must have soft food. This mixing of the morning and evening mash is troublesome, and the average man will not do it.

E. W. Ely, in *American Poultry Journal*, says the Pekin duck was imported from China in 1873. Mr. McGrath, of the firm of Fogg & Co., engaged in the China and Japan trade, saw the bird at Pekin, and thought it a variety of the goose. He procured some eggs and took them to Shanghai, where he set them under hens and secured 15 ducklings. When sufficiently matured these birds were sent to the United States in charge of James E. Palmer. Six ducks and three drakes survived the voyage of 124 days, and reached New York March 13, 1873.

In the British Department of *Poultry Monthly*, Joseph Pettipher tells of how Mrs. Campbell specially bred a duck by a series of judicious crosses with a view of the best possible laying powers as the leading feature, combining at the same time a fair average table bird. She now hatches ducklings every month in the year, and no matter in what month they come out, she can always rely on their laying at six months old, and often less. So her desire for duck eggs all the year round is now easily gratified by keeping ducks of three different ages, viz., some one year old, some early hatched in current year, and some very late.

G. A. McFetridge gives this method of fattening: If the trade calls for yellow skin use yellow corn; if a white skin is more saleable use white corn. A very good feed is composed of one-third cornmeal, one-third middlings, one-third bran. A feed composed of the above will make more muscle and require more time to fatten than when more cornmeal is used. If the demand is for fat, which is the case in New York market, then use one-third cornmeal, one-fourth middlings and one-fourth bran, and about one-eighth beef scraps. Do not use much green stuff while fattening; not more than

one-eighth part, as the skin will be affected by the color of the feed. When ducks are put up for fattening, feed light for the first five days, then commence to increase their feed a little each time. You will find that they will eat until they will be unable to swallow the last mouthful, yet they run to the water with that mouthful and mix it with the water and try to drink it. This is the cause of filthy water troughs. It will be necessary to scrub them every day. If this is neglected and the ducks drink from their filthy troughs it will taint their flesh.

Geo. A. Palmer, in *Poultry* (English) gives the method of fattening in his country: Ducklings will fatten much quicker and better in wire frames than at liberty, and on no account should they be allowed water enough to swim in. The wire frames are 3 feet high and 12 feet square, and can be moved daily on to fresh clean grass. The feed should be well varied. Bone meal is an essential and may be mixed with sharps. Barleymeal and milk, cooked wheat, groats and rice will give them an excellent start, and green food should not be forgotten. Chopped dandelion, onion, lettuce, may be mixed with soft food, and a fair proportion of meat may be given. Greaves broken up fine and mixed with boiling water will answer very well. When cheapness of production is considered before quality of meal, maize may be used freely at the latter end of the 8 or 9 weeks. In any case feed chiefly upon the lighter foods at first, and get on to stronger toward the close, finishing chiefly upon barleymeal and maize. Wheat may be given chiefly as the hard grain, and a little buckwheat and hemp seed will prove useful additions. But remember that milk, when obtainable, will give a great return; that grit is required just as much for duckling as for chicken; that bonemeal has no substitute; that the feeds should be often, early and late, with clean drinking water before them, and there will be no difficulty in getting the ducks off in the first feather, and, what is of more importance, at a profit.

#### Diseases—Remedy and Prevention.

*Value of Charcoal, Grit and Venetian Red—Roup Cures—Scaly Legs—Contaminated Soil—Leg Weakness—Fleas—Overfeeding—Gapes—Cholera Scars.*

#### Watch!

Elbow-grease is often a good preventive of disease.

The wide-awake man has the least trouble with sickness among his fowls. A little granulated charcoal mixed in the soft food will generally check bowel trouble in chicks.

Three drops of spirits of camphor on a piece of bread, is recommended by London *Poultry* for roup.

It is said that a teaspoonful of Venetian red in a gallon of drinking water, will stimulate the system by preventing bowel trouble.

Three things that it should be the aim to avoid are too much dampness, contaminated grounds and lack of suitable grit supply.

Neats Foot oil is recommended for greasing the legs of birds to keep them smooth and free from scale. A few applications will cure scaly legs.

Poultry keeping cannot be successful until the cause of fowl ailments are properly understood, and until we know the symptoms proper for the various diseases.

Contaminated soil and want of grit when existing together make conditions that will soon tell on the flock, no matter how carefully all other known requirements are followed.

A correspondent on Florida *Farmer* says he cured a flock of hens that were fairly covered with fleas, by cutting up a small piece of plug tobacco and making a strong tea, which he applied.

Edwin Wing gives this treatment for roup: One-fourth teaspoonful of cayenne pepper, mixed with milk, and poured down the throat; in six hours give another dose. The two doses generally cure.

Every poultry house should have a double run, so that the fowls can occupy one part while in the other part a green crop of some kind is growing. This prevents contamination of the soil.

For leg weakness, C. M. Davidson, in *American Poultry Journal*, says he found *nux-vomica*, of 3x strength, a sure cure. Give three pellets night and morning. If a severe case, give three doses per day.

Ordinary gravel is generally too smooth from being water-worn, and is not, therefore, the best kind for poultry. They prefer grit more like real coarse sand that has angular, rough and sharp edges or sides.

The following English remedy for roup in a mild form is recommended: Sweet oil two parts, crude carbolic acid one part, and with a camel's hair brush painted the nostrils of the affected bird. One application generally cures. It causes the birds to throw off the mucous, when recovery is rapid.

Overfed hens often have sour stomachs and a condition similar to dyspepsia. *American Agriculturist* says char a little corn on the cob and give them carbon in this agreeable form as a sweetener, or take a little old dry corn and bake it in an oven until it is somewhat blackened. Feed while warm.

Our plan has always been, when roup visited our flocks, to cut off the head of our patient and bury the carcass. It pays far better to lose a few individual specimens, no matter how valuable they may be, than to endanger a whole flock of birds. Cure colds, no matter how slight, in their earlier stages, and roup need not be feared.

Without doubt a good many of the mysterious developments of disease that cause serious losses in the poultry yard, if carefully investigated, could be traced to contaminated soil, says Geo. O. Brown. Almost invariably where epidemic troubles originate with a flock it is on runs or ground

which have for a number of seasons been devoted exclusively to poultry. The much use of cayenne pepper has caused considerable trouble among poultry keepers, and so has overfeeding. The former brings on liver troubles, and the latter leads first to indigestion, then fever, then cholera or fever, and gangrene of the intestines, or inflammation of the mucous membrane, which is catarrh or roup; or anthrax, which is black comb, and other fatal disorganizations of the muscular tissues and the liver.

A writer in *Practical Farmer* recommends this treatment for gapes: In the evening before the hen and her brood enter the coop, pour about a gill of crude petroleum over the floor of the coop. During the night the fumes from the oil will kill the worms and afterward be found on the floor of the coop. This is no theory, but has been tried and the result was as stated. The chickens were cured of gapes and grew nicely without further troubles from gapes.

An experienced poultryman once told us that corn brought on cholera, and as proof he took us to the yards of a friend whose fowls were suffering from the effects of the "cholera scourge." He pointed to the yellow droppings, the dejected and droopy appearance of the fowls, the unhealthy color of the combs, the death rate, etc., but yet he could not show us cholera. The heavy feeding of corn, with the absence of good, sharp grit, brought on bad cases of indigestion, but cholera had no hand in the destruction.

We daily receive letters from all over the United States asking for cures for ailments in fowls. The bulk of these, at certain times of the year (principally winter), call for cholera cures. We took pains to inquire among a few and learned that the ration was principally corn, and the only grit available was some gravel, mostly round pebbles, or oyster shells. We believe that this heavy feeding of corn with a lack of sharp grit, is the cause of nearly all of this reported trouble among western farmers. Two-thirds of the cholera reports come from Western States.

Where the runs are on lowlands, and there is an abundance of shade, there is sometimes a green, mossy appearance in the shaded places. The Baltimore *Sun* says these are sources of danger to the flock—dangerous conditions for health—but natural probably for the conditions and general surroundings. In such locations the conditions can be changed and greatly improved either by making drains situated so as to improve the unduly damp spots, or by pruning some of the rank growth to let in more sunshine and air. Often a liberal supply of air-slaked lime will afford very excellent results.

While living South we found that every case of "cholera" in our section was a combination of lice and poor grit. A lousy dyspeptic fowl is a very good representative of a cholera victim. Joseph Wallace, in his book on the Wyandotte, says that "enteritis or inflammation of the bowels, is often

taken for cholera, but there is a congestion of blood about the head in cholera which turns the face, comb and wattles purple, which is unusual in enteritis." Prof. Kilborne declares that fowl cholera, like most other contagious diseases, will die out of itself when there are no suitable animals for it to prey upon. That, then, knocks the theory that cholera germs lurk about the premises.

When freely used in poultry yards, charcoal is of great value. If ground or pounded fine and fed to the fowls in their soft food, says Baltimore *Sun*, it cleanses the system of impurities. As it acts upon the blood it acts upon the life of the fowl. When the blood is thick and clotty, a dull, sick chicken will soon follow. Thin blood means vigorous circulation, and on good circulation of the blood health largely depends. If your fowls lack activity, they need something to stir the blood of its sluggishness. We have every confidence in charcoal, and would advise the farmer to barrel some for feeding to his poultry. Keep in a dry place, and when needed grind or pound some fine and mix with soft food.

#### Pointers on Food and Feeding.

*Best Grains for Eggs—Sunflower Seed—The Value of Oats—Buckwheat—Feeding Corn—Clover—Sorghum Seed—White and Sweet Potatoes—Overfeeding—Bones—Wheat Bran—How to Feed.*

Corn for fat.

Oats for eggs.

Bran for eggs.

Corn for heat.

Feed for eggs.

Wheat for eggs.

Feed for health.

Middlings for eggs.

Study the nature of the food.

A varied diet is the best diet. Fowls thrive best when thus fed.

Feeding the average wheat screenings is just that much food wasted.

Bulky feed is a necessity in the every day *regime* of poultry as well as in that of other animals.

Because a fowl is a hearty eater is no reason why it should have food opposite to what it is intended for.

Mix enough middlings with the soft food to make it mix up in small balls.

The fowls will eat it more readily.

Sunflower seed is very nitrogenous and rich in fats. About a quart to 30 fowls, twice a week, is a very good way to feed them.

There is one objectionable thing about oats as food for poultry. That is that the husk or fibre is very sharp and unyielding, and fowls to which this grain is fed should have plenty of grit.

Buckwheat has been lauded to the skies as a poultry feed, but in the estimation of many it should take fourth rank at least—wheat, oats and corn standing above it in value. It is a good thing to have in the family all the same, says Robert A. Braden.

Fowls that are fed on a variety of wholesome feed, which of course comprises

grain, ground and unground, vegetables, roots, and animal flesh, need no special preparations for any purpose of health, growth, development, or for enriching and giving gloss to the plumage.

The *American Poultry Journal* says: Just how much corn should be fed depends very much upon what is the object in feeding it. Corn, on a cold winter night, is valuable for heating the body. Fed during hot weather—spring and summer—it invites indigestion and many troubles.

Clover is better than any other hay for fowls because it possesses egg making nutrient, besides fibre to separate the particles of grain. It is not bulk—mere quantity—that is needed, but coarse fibre to separate the concentrated feed in the stomach, so that the gastric juices can circulate through the mass.

Some writers recommend sorghum seed for poultry feed. It might do to make up the variety, and surely would keep the fowls busy picking if fed unthreshed. Anything to keep fowls exercising in winter and their blood in circulation should be recommended, and scratching and picking among sorghum heads would surely have that effect.

In feeding oats the quality of the grain should have some virtue. The large, white oats are better, as it is the berry after all that is desirable, and not husks. It may be well to run them through a mill and blow over all the light oats from a portion, using only the heavy ones for poultry food.

Bear in mind that if you attempt to fatten some of the hens for market you must remove those intended to be retained as layers, or the laying hens will become useless, says *Farm and Fireside*. More loss occurs from overfeeding than from insufficient food, and the result is due to a failure to recognize the fact that a laying hen requires different food and care from one intended for market.

F. J. Marshall says he would not advise the feeding of cheap or musty wheat or other grain. Feed good, pure feed, and you will get the worth of your money with good interest every time. Do not overlook the matter of exercise in your desire to feed well; give them exercise in some way. He feeds most of his corn on the cob, cut in pieces, letting them pick it off themselves, which gives them the required exercise.

Boiled white or Irish potatoes may be given sparingly, but never boiled sweets. We made an experiment with the latter some years ago, and were surprised to see how quickly they would oversadden. On the other hand, we found that raw potatoes of any kind, when cut in half and given the fowls to pick to pieces, not only acted as an excellent substitute for green food, but gave a variety to the bill of fare that proved valuable.

*Poultry Farmer* says that in 100 pounds of oats there are 15 pounds of flesh-forming food, 6 of fat, 47 of starch, 2 of bone forming feed and 20 of husk or fibre. In oatmeal there are 18 of flesh formers, same of fat, 63 of starch,

same of bone formers, and 2 of husk or fibre. For the purpose of comparing with wheat we give the analysis of wheat, which has 12 pounds of flesh formers, 3 of fat or oil, 70 of starch, same of bone makers and 1 of fibre.

When the ground oats are fed it may be well to scald with boiling water and mix rather dry so the ball will fall to pieces when thrown on the feeding boards, says *Poultry Farmer*. There should never be enough water in the food so as to have the balls glisten in the light, or to make a sticky, porridgy mass which clings about the beaks of the fowls and gives them infinite annoyance, besides often causing diarrhoea. It is best to mix with the hands, and the mass should be squeezed into balls.

Breeders of poultry will have overfeeding to guard against as much as lack of feeding. There is a general tendency among poultry people to overfeed, in their anxiety to get the chicks ready for the market at an early date. To do this without bringing on disease is laudable, says *Poultry Farmer*, but to do it will require exacting pains, and the best experts will sometimes fail in the undertaking. A great many chicks and babies die annually of diseases traceable to overfeeding. This is all because of over-kindness, feeding too often and too well.

The different parts of ordinary market bones, upon analysis, were found to contain in abundance the ingredients which go to make up the growing chick, and in wonderfully close proportion the different parts of the complete egg, says *Farm and Home*. The lean meat and gristle form the white of the egg and about 16 per cent. of the yolk. The marrow and other fat on the bones supply the remainder of the yolk. The lime phosphates in the bones yield all the necessary lime salts for the shell and the requisite phosphates for the interior of the egg.

J. M. Wise, in *Ohio Poultry Journal*, says sunflower seed is good not only as a feed, but as a medicine. It is a grain rich in oil, which must be a benefit in more ways than one. Exhibitors prize it highly, as they claim it produces a red comb and a luster on the plumage. It is easy to raise, and the mammoth Russian yields largely. Never try to dry the seeds in the heads; always shell as soon as ripe and spread out on a dry floor where the air and light will reach it, and thus dry it before becoming musty.

H. B. Geer says in summer feeding the absence of wheat bran shortens the egg crop. Get a good quality of bran, the kind that has a body to it, such as is put up by a country mill, and it contains a good deal of what the millers call "shorts," or part of the grain that makes flour when closely ground and separated. The dry, reddish, flakey bran that is put out by some city mills is not of much value as poultry food. But bran of the better quality mentioned, when mixed with oats and coarse cornmeal will increase the laying of hens in small yards, when the weather is hot and dry, and the grass about dried up. In feeding

it, mix the oats, wheat bran and cornmeal together in about equal parts with water, but not enough of the latter to make the mixture too wet.

The great difficulty in feeding is to know what to give. The two principal materials are nitrogen (for flesh, albumen, etc.) and carbon (for fat). The nitrogenous foods are meat, beans, clover, and, to a certain extent, the grains. The carbonaceous foods are corn, fat meat, grease, rice, etc. If a hen is fat she needs no food excelling in fat, says *Farm and Fireside*. Hence, finely cut clover hay, scalded, given in the morning, with a tablespoonful of meat in winter, is better for egg production than grains. If a hen is poor give some grain at night. All foods, however, contain fat, and also some nitrogen. It should be borne in mind that the more quiet and sluggish the disposition the less corn or heating food is required. A laying hen should never be fat, for the accumulation of fat is injurious to reproduction. If too fat the hen is a poor layer. She becomes egg-bound, breaks down, and soon proves unproductive.

#### Turkey Culture.

*Feeding Young Turkeys—A Little Turkey History—Protection From Foxes—Turkeys in California—Quick Feathering—Methods of Fattening—The Turkey an Idiot.*

Get the stock tame.

Fight lice and dampness.

Range makes hardy stock.

Watch the thunder storms.

Have an open roosting shed.

Never feed cornmeal to young.

As a rule, turkey eggs hatch well.

Don't breed from excessive weights.

Next month begin to feed for market.

Are you raising many turkeys this year? The turkey will lose flesh in confinement.

Seven eggs is about all a common hen can cover.

Keep the young shut up while the dew is on the grass.

In our forefather's days, if the Xmas turkey weighed from 14 to 16 pounds, it was considered above the average; today we would credit such weights as good only for pullets.

It is not good policy to let turkeys run about with ordinary fowls and take food in the same manner. Turkeys treated in this way will consume more food than is profitable and put on less weight than should come from that amount of expense.

Medium-sized but plump turkeys are marketable all the year round, so that at any time when there is a surplus they may be sold at fair prices, but to secure the best prices they must be young and in a good marketable condition, not too fat and not too large.

The first turkeys introduced into Europe were taken from the West Indies to Spain, and thence carried to England, in the 16th century by William Strickland, lieutenant to Sebastian Cabot. Since that time it has become acclimated to most parts of the world.

L. V. Hopkins, in *American Agriculturist*,

says the first dose that he gives his little turkeys is a pill in the shape of one whole black pepper. Each little mouth is forced open and the pepper pressed down. The peppers must be of a small size, or else Mr. Hopkins means that a whole pepper is fed in pieces rolled up in the shape of a pill.

A. R. Turner, in *New York Tribune*, writes: "I was living on a farm several years ago, and made it a point to raise as many turkeys as possible, but was troubled by foxes until I tried the experiment of putting a small sleigh bell on each turkey's neck, after which no fox would come near them."

When the Pilgrim Fathers first reached the New England shores in 1620, the woods of that section were alive with wild turkeys. Although this fowl was exclusively found in North America in its wild state, the earlier naturalists supposed it to come from the East Indies and Africa, and that it originated in Turkey. Hence, it was called by that name.

In California turkeys are raised by the hundreds and are hired out to vineyard men, sometimes in lots of 500, as they will destroy the insects that prey upon the grape. They will march through the vineyards and catch the insects, but never touch a grape. The Bronze is most generally used, as it is larger and hardier.

There are three species of wild turkeys described as inhabiting Central America, Mexico, and the table land of the Rocky Mountains, closely resembling in plumage and habit the common wild turkey and the Bush turkey, which is found in Australia and South America. The latter is not so handsome and requires a warmer climate than the North American turkey.

"I have always thought that the delicacy of young turkeys is due in a measure to the rapidity with which feathers are grown," says L. V. Hopkins. A young chicken retains its down for several weeks until its body is well grown, but a young turkey begins at once to put out large feathers on its wings and tail. This enormous feather growth saps the vitality of the body and leaves it an easy prey to weakness and disease. To overcome this tendency should be the aim of every breeder.

The following method of fattening for market is recommended by Mrs. A. W. Trumble, in *Practical Farmer*: "Usually fed corn exclusively, but sometimes would feed small potatoes cooked and mashed with cornmeal, fed warm. They were always fed all they would eat but had their liberty, never shutting up until the day before killing. They were dressed in best possible manner and sent to a city market a few days before Thanksgiving Day, and I never remember getting a low price. We kept no pure breed. I think a medium-size turkey sells better and will be full grown and plump, while the extra large take longer to mature and if dressed before fully grown often show pin feathers."

The *American Agriculturist* says the first food for young turkeys is Dutch or cottage cheese, and their first drink

the whey which is strained from the curd. Many people think the making of this cheese is quite a task, but it is in reality very simple. Let the curd strain through a colander and feed a little at a time at intervals of not more than 1 1-2 hours. This should be their sole food for 2 or 3 days. After this the diet may be changed to stale bread, soaked in whey or buttermilk. Boiled eggs are also valuable. The cheese, however, should be the principal food until the fowls are a month old. An addition of a little pepper and oil cake meal is desirable.

The wild turkey is not the largest variety, but naturally the most vigorous. It is indigenous to North America. The bird is about 3 1-2 feet in length, with a spread of wing 5 feet in extent. The toms weigh from 15 to 20 pounds. The naked skin of the head is a livid blue, and the excrescences purplish red. The general color is copper bronze, with green and metallic reflections, each feather with a velvet black margin. The quills of the wings are brown and closely barred with white; the tail feathers are chestnut in color and barred with black, and the tip with a very wide subterminal bar. The female is smaller and less brilliant, without spurs, and often without bristles on the breast, with a smaller fleshy proboscis above the base of the bill.

Of all the domestic feathered idiots the turkey is the most dense in its unenlightenment, says *Texas Farm and Ranch*. It is said that a goose will duck its head when passing under the tallest arch. This may be true, but it surely indicates the presence of an idea, though it may be an absurd one. A turkey has not sense enough to duck the head under any conditions. A turkey will never learn to enter through an opening lower than its head, and one can never be learned to find an opening to a feed pen, of its own volition, though it be driven in and out twice a day for a whole year. We used to trap wild turkeys in what was called a turkey pen. A pen of fence rails was made, and the earth removed from the outside to the depth of two feet, the earth on the inside being a few inches higher. This trap was baited with a trailing of corn for some distance outside to the inside of the pen. The turkey would walk in following the bait, but once in he could not get out without lowering the head. We have caught entire flocks of these game birds, and never knew one to escape from the trap after once entering. For a high-toned egotistical idiot in feathers, commend us to the strutting turkey cock.

The *American Poultry Journal* gives this method for fattening for market when fattening time comes: The turkeys should be confined in a shed spacious enough to let them move about somewhat, but not large enough to grant them great exercise. Low roosts should be placed. Half an hour in the morning ought to be allowed them for roaming about outside, where grit can be found and where they can stretch their legs. After that they should be called into

the shed, by feeding them only in that spot, and so left for the day. On cold wet days they need not be let out. The feed should be put into troughs, set low on a broad base, and located where the fowls will not soil them. The feeding place might be under a shed adjoining the shed where they roost. The morning meal at first may consist of barley meal and middlings; and skim milk is desirable as a mixing fluid. Oatmeal is proper as the days go on, and minced fat should be added during the last 10 days. The evening meal should include boiled corn, and the mess ought to be mixed stiffer than for the morning feed. Whole grain is good in moderation, scattered on the ground.

### Geese for Profit.

#### *Valuable Pointers Taken From the 1897 Report of the Rhode Island Experimental Station.*

Goose grease is a household remedy. The wild Canada goose is readily domesticated.

Tall woody grasses, which have become tough, are not relished by geese.

Young goslings make the most rapid growth upon short nutritious grass and cracked corn or wheat.

Goose grease, says Dr. Symes, can be eaten on bread, with salt, and, if freshly prepared, is very palatable and nutritious.

Willoughby records the instance of a goose that had reached the age of 80 years, and was at last killed for its mischievousness.

It is very rarely that a gander kindly cared for and treated well becomes habitually ugly so as to attack people without provocation.

The domestic goose seldom mates with more than three females, occasionally with less, and is almost constant in his adherence to the mates he has selected.

Geese are ever on the alert, and one breeder asserts that geese are better than any watch-dog for giving notice of the approach of strangers during either day time or night.

Young geese are not fully matured at 12 months old, and the experienced breeder never expects the best results in egg production and fertility until the second or third season.

The wild Canada gander usually mates with but one goose, and once mated is constant in his attachment to the goose of his choice so long as she is allowed to remain with him.

In a wild state, geese devour large quantities of roots of grasses and aquatic plants, which they dig from the banks and borders of streams and wash free from earth in the shallow water.

The natural habit of geese makes considerable space necessary for their successful keeping, or requires that they be provided with succulent green crops, such as rape, cabbage, sorghum, corn, oats, etc.

The wild gander almost never mates the first year, and frequently not until the third season, and is much more

particular about accepting a new mate if deprived of one to which he has become already attached.

Domestic geese confine themselves less to water and aquatic plants and generally feed upon pastures, preferring moist rich localities where the grass is kept short and sweet by constant feeding and rapid growth.

Broods of goslings of different ages, hatched and reared on the same farm, must, of necessity, be penned while young, each brood by itself, and as they go out to feed on the pasture or field each flock invariably keeps by itself.

An old adage, more expressive than elegant, says: "The goose eats everything before it, and poisons everything behind it," but doubtless it had its origin in the mind of some enemy, as when geese have sufficient pasture it is not true.

Geese have great constancy, another trait which is not appreciated except by those who have had considerable experience in raising them. This term applies to their attachment for each other, and also to their home and surroundings.

Ganders fight among themselves whenever one colony intrudes upon the territory of another, and their battles are severely fought, usually with the wings, one gander seizing the other by the first joint of the wing with the bill, and beating him with his wings while thus held.

It was the trait of watchfulness which gave the geese the credit of saving Rome from surprise and capture, through a silent and stealthy night attack of the enemy, as early as 388 B.C. Then geese were kept as sacred to the queen of the Roman gods, Juno, which sacredness implied great antiquity.

If, for any reason, the gander is separated from his mates and placed with others, he will seldom accept them so long as his old mates are anywhere within hearing distance, and, even when they are entirely removed from the premises, it frequently takes some time before he will become reconciled to his new mates.

It has been said that no class of poultry can be produced with so little expense for shelter, food, labor, and care, as geese. This statement is true when their habits and requirements are thoroughly understood and met, and it is equally true that no class of poultry can be more disastrously unsatisfactory under opposite conditions.

Unlike gallinaceous fowls, the goose has practically no crop, although an enlargement of the end of the gullet next the gizzard in some measure serves to hold food, consequently it feeds at very frequent intervals, and during warm weather often eats more at night than during the day time, a point which should be remembered in feeding and caring for them.

Geese become attached to the locality in which they are kept, and are much disturbed when removed to a new location; hence, when such removal is necessary, or when a beginning is

# A FEW HENS.

EDITED BY

MICHAEL K. BOYER,

Hammonton, N. J.

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Price, Monthly, Three Cents.

By the Year, Twenty-Five Cents.

Send all orders to

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PUBLISHERS.

## ADVERTISING RATE:

The rate per agate line is 15 cents each insertion; or 10 cents per line if order is for six months or more. About seven ordinary words make one line. There are fourteen lines in each inch space, single column.

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## EDITORIAL.

Fall is Coming. The backbone of summer is practically broken. According to the calendar, the summer ends this month. Here in Southern Jersey we have full three months yet of delightful summer weather—winter seldom sets in until after New Year.

With the advent of September will come the demand for breeding stock, and the wise poultrymen will seek the columns of A FEW HENS to advertise his goods. A FEW HENS has made quite a record as a "business getter." For its age it leads all other journals. Advertisers in A FEW HENS are loud in their praise of the good returns they have been having.

Our low advertising rates, and our extra large circulation makes advertising with us profitable. A FEW HENS' readers are beginners, therefore buyers. Our circulation was obtained on the merits of our journal and its low subscription rate. We are competing with no other journal, for we are entirely unlike any other publication. A FEW HENS is the only "boiled down" poultry journal in the world. It is a hit. Subscriptions are fairly pouring in daily. This is no idle boast.

The readers of A FEW HENS are of a different class than what are generally found in other mediums. They are farmers and owners of city-lot poultry plants. Our readers do not look for show reports; they know nothing about scores and judging; they do not believe that outside adoration tells of the quality of the fowls. They are in the poultry business for practical purposes. They want the eggs and the meat—the outside "points" are not to their fancy. Yet they believe in thoroughbreds. They want strictly pure-blooded poultry—no mongrels. They want egg records and a big meat supply.

Have you goods that will attract such people? If so, the advertising columns of A FEW HENS afford a golden opportunity for a rich harvest. Here is a Klondike that will be worth working. We have the people—have you the goods? Send in your advertisement at once.

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Meat and The Western Garden and Eggs. Poultry Journal, Des Moines, Iowa, is one of the neatest and best of our exchanges,

and as a rule filled with good, common sense matter. It certainly was with surprise that we read the following editorial in the August issue:

"This class of papers ("meat and egg" poultry papers,) if we are to judge by the thinness of their advertising columns, are not getting very fat at present. The publishers of these papers are all humorists, every last man of them, for there is nothing funnier than their position with reference to the poultry question. They make all manner of sport of the man who is a stickler for color, shape, "points," etc., and cover with ridicule the fellow who won't have a bird "unless the feathers are just so." They claim editorially, to cater only to the farmer, and constantly try to make him believe that common fowls are good enough for him. At the same time they urge true fanciers, and up-to-date breeders of fine poultry to advertise through their columns to this farmer audience of theirs, whom they constantly urge to pay no attention to fancy poultry, but just raise chickens for 'meat and eggs.' As the old woman said, 'It's enough to make a cat laugh.' It's an insult to the intelligence of any breeder of thoroughbred poultry, to be asked to advertise in a paper, the readers of which have already been told *not* to buy his goods.

"If the readers of these papers follow the instructions given them by the publishers thereof, they of course cannot become advertising patrons, because a market for all 'meat and egg' poultry can easily be found at the corner grocery, and as the avowed purpose of these papers is to decry and belittle the fancy poultry business, the soliciting of advertising from breeders of thoroughbreds is an exhibition of 'gall,' admirable for its grandeur, and supreme in its magnificence.

"The fancy poultrymen of the country, however, are 'thoroughbreds' in every sense, as is indicated by the prompt and delightful manner in which they are giving the 'marble heart' to these so-called poultry papers, and every year thousands of progressive, intelligent farmers give the 'horse laugh' to all their wise (?) teachings as well, by joining the ranks of the thoroughbred breeders, because, as sensible men, they know there is more money in a pure bred hen than in a scrub."

In his enterprising manner, bidding for advertising, the editor of the *Journal*, has shown his ability in the line of poultry. There are only two surely meat and egg journals published in the United States—*Poultry Farmer*, of Des Moines, Iowa, and A FEW HENS. The rest of the poultry journals either publish show awards or take up discussions on fancy or Standard topics. We have a suspicion that the editorial in question was intended mainly for the *Farmer*, as that publication and the *Journal* are published in the same city. A jealousy between the two must exist. If the matter is of a local character, Editor DePuy should have had courage enough to have openly charged it as such.

For mistakes and misrepresentations, this editorial by Mr. DePuy is remarkable. In the first place "thinness of advertising columns" is referred to. Mr. DePuy's combination journal is in

its tenth year of publication; A FEW HENS has just entered its third year of existence, and yet if Mr. DePuy will carefully look over the advertising columns of the past season he will find we had almost as much, if not quite so, of solid *poultry* advertising as he had. We may not be "getting very fat at present," but can Mr. DePuy show that in the first two years of his paper's existence it secured over 10,000 *bona-fide* subscribers, and that, too, without the use of "word-hunt contests" or other similar schemes? We have yet eight more years to go to get as "fat" as Mr. DePuy.

A FEW HENS has never once championed the cause of the common or mongrel hen—and we cannot recall that the *Farmer* ever did. We believe in thoroughbred poultry only, and keep only such. Evidently Mr. DePuy does not know the difference between "thoroughbred" and "Standard bred." There is a vast difference, Mr. DePuy, and we venture to say that if an expert was to visit the yards of all the advertisers in your paper, he would find that many of them were not keeping or breeding "Standard breeds" or "fancy," as you call them.

A FEW HENS never solicits advertising from fanciers—note our editorials in each issue—but always from those who have practical poultry or poultry appliances. When fanciers advertise with us, they are sure to state the meat and egg qualities of their stock; and if Mr. DePuy will read and learn, he will soon discover that the leading fanciers of the country are now endeavoring to combine utility with fancy, and are realizing the fact that birds bred merely for show do not meet the demand of the bulk of the poultry buyers.

Mr. DePuy has marked ability—but it seems to run in the line of illustrating cute babies. We enjoy them, all the same, and have several of them cut out and pasted on a calendar in our office. They are all fat babies, evidently bred for "meat" (Don't laugh, only a break of ours to be funny, as Mr. DePuy says we are humorists!)

Mr. DePuy's knowledge of the production of meat and eggs in this country is very meagre. He evidently knows nothing about the existence of large egg farms and extensive broiler and roaster plants, for he says "a market for all the meat and egg poultry can easily be found at the corner grocery." Is it possible that the editor of such a neat and attractive journal has not yet discovered the fact that we are compelled to annually import meat and eggs; that there is not a firm in the country that could begin to handle what we (New Jersey) alone produce?

The only sensible paragraph in his editorial is this: "Every year thousands of progressive, intelligent farmers are joining the ranks of the thoroughbred breeders, because, as sensible men, they know there is more money in a pure bred hen than in a scrub." That is so. Farmers are giving up their mongrels and introducing thoroughbreds, but does Mr. DePuy know of one who buys "Standard breeds" or fancy fowls? What would be thought of a farmer if he paid \$100 for 10 hens to supply eggs

for his table customers? Would Mr. DePuy make every farmer a fancier? Then he is the greatest enemy of the fancier, for we now have too many slipshod fanciers. A true fancier is not made in a day. He must be born to the work. It is just as impossible for us to be a fancier—it is not in us—as it would be for Mr. DePuy to be a preacher. Probably it would be easier for him to be a preacher than for us to become a fancier. Another attempt at a joke!

We hope Mr. DePuy will see the error of his way, and turn that handsome magazine of his into a useful one, by doing away with the "garden truck" and hewing closely to the line of the production of meat and eggs, for, after all, poultry was created for no other purpose.

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**Editor Of the American Stock Atherton Keeper**, Boston, has repeatedly said nice things about our efforts. The following, taken from a recent issue, is "short but sweet:"

"A FEW HENS is now two years old, and in that time Uncle Mike has developed it into quite a flock, and a valuable one at that."

It is very gratifying to see the "good fellowship" displayed by our exchanges. A FEW HENS wants to be on "speaking terms" with all of them, and is proud of having their friendship. Let's all pull together, boys. There's plenty of room for us all.

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**Kind Words.** C. Van Wagoner, Bloomfield, N. J.: "It gives me much pleasure to say to you that I have been greatly pleased with A FEW HENS the past year, and now enclose my renewal."

**Chas. F. Poor, Tapleyville, Mass.:** "Every issue of A FEW HENS brings sunshine into its household."

**M. D. Andes, Bristol, Tenn.:** "I honestly believe A FEW HENS contains more solid facts to the square inch than any poultry journal I have read (and I have read about all that were ever published.)"

**E. F. Youngs, West Camp, N. Y.:** "It's hard to say big enough things for your little A FEW HENS. It's all right, and I should not be right without it, so there's an end onto it."

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**Editors and Incubators.** The question time and again is asked us,

"Which is the best incubator," and because we do not mention a particular make, it is supposed that we reserve our decision for fear we may lose advertising patronage from the manufacturers of other machines. That is not a fact. Our only reason is that we do not know.

On the farm of A FEW HENS we use only the Prairie State incubators, and we have several reasons for doing so.

1st. Because we have run them so long that we feel we fully understand them, and consequently get the best results. It is not so much the make of machine as the way it is handled. While we can make a successful hatch with the Prairie State it would take some time for us to understand any other.

2d. Because we know that the Prairie State is so well made. We have seen

this incubator in all stages of construction, having twice visited the factory, and can testify to the skillful work employed, and the superior quality of material used in their manufacture.

Yet we will not say the Prairie State is the best incubator on the market, but we will say that there is not a better made machine, nor is there one more easily handled. It is built on honor. Now it would be foolish for us to exchange this machine for one that we know nothing, or very little about.

Our attention was called to an editorial by Mr. Curtis, of the *Reliable Poultry Journal*, and comments by Mr. Drevenstedt, of the *American Fancier*. In a contest between setting hens and incubators, made by Mr. Curtis and his assistant, F. W. Breed, the incubator beat. If that fact alone had been announced, it would at once be surmised that the incubator referred to was the Reliable, with which company it was believed both Mr. Curtis and Mr. Breed were more or less connected. But no! The machine to receive the honor was a Cyphers.

Now we believe the Cyphers is an excellent incubator. We do not say so from personal experience, for we have never run one, in fact we have even never saw one. But we have had some excellent reports concerning it. Mr. Cyphers is an expert; he has given the poultry world one of the best books on artificial incubation. Evidently he used his persuasive powers to influence Mr. Curtis from the Reliable people. We don't know that he has, but it looks that way. Very well, if the berth suits Mr. Cyphers and Mr. Curtis it is no body's business.

*Agricultural Advertising* (Mr. Curtis is one of the associate editors of that journal) says Mr. Curtis is one of the stock-holders in the Cyphers Co.

But, even if Mr. Curtis is a stockholder in the Cyphers Co., he does not have faith in their brooding system, as the following editorial by himself will testify:

"If some one will now perfect a brooding system and, after careful experimenting, will furnish a successful method of feeding chicks, the whole problem of artificial incubation and brooding will be solved."

In the above Mr. Curtis practically says that the Cyphers is the perfect incubator, while the brooding system (although as good as any other) is not yet in the proper state.

Now, as we said before, we believe the Cyphers incubator is a good one, but for us it is no better than the Prairie State; for Mr. C. K. Nelson, of Hammonston, it is no better than the Reliable; for some others no better than the Star, or the Pineland, or any other good machine after once being thoroughly understood.

Mr. Drevenstedt, in a very able editorial voices our sentiments in the following:

"To be plain, the incubator problem has been solved, according to Mr. Curtis, and the Cyphers machine fills the bill. Nothing is said about other incubators doing the same. That probably was an oversight. As to brooding and feeding chickens, the problem has been solved many moons ago. There are any

number of good brooders in the market, and plenty of excellent foods, backed up by the intelligence and knowledge of American poultry raisers. There were systems of brooding in vogue 10 years ago that were as near perfect as the human animal could desire, and there were no strings attached to them either. We would do the manufacturers of incubators and brooders in this country a manifest injustice to allow the statement made by Editor Curtis to pass unnoticed."

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**Chickens and Ducks.** We have repeatedly stated that the size of a farm is not so much measured by the number of acres occupied, as by the amount of output. We have seen large plants that did but very little business; we have likewise been to small farms where an excellent business was done. It is the small farm that A FEW HENS is mostly interested in, believing that less fowls and better management will give greater results than by quartering a lot of poultry and unable to give them the proper attention.

**M. A. Dearing, Great Barrington, Mass.**, is one of those large farmers on a small territory. He has but an acre of ground, on which he keeps three horses, one cow, rabbits, Guinea pigs, ferrets, foxes, coons and pet stock, and finds enough land to spare to do an extensive poultry business, keep a flock of pheasants, and have quite a good garden.

He started his incubators January 1st, 1899, and up to May 21st he hatched 4,503 chickens. After that date he filled his incubators with duck eggs. He raises each year between 500 and 600 ducks on this same one acre of land.

**Liquid Lice Killer** banishes lice and all vermin from poultry and stock. Formula how to make and use it 10 cents. **GALLATIN CO.**, York, Pa.

**SINGLE COMB WHITE LEGHORNS.** Pairs, trios, cockerels. Good cockerels \$1 each. **MRS. S. RIDER**, Maryland, N. Y.

**TREICHLER'S Poultry Farm** has for sale a fine lot of vigorous Wh. Leghorns and Wh. Wyandotte cockerels that will be ready for shipment Sept. 1st. Prices and stock right. Give me a trial. **C. F. TREICHLER**, Sanborn, N. Y.

Send 15c. and receive plans and a few ideas in poultry house building that will be a surprise to you. **A. H. WHITMORE**, Hammonston, N. J.

**GREAT LAYING** brown egg strains farm-raised Light Brahma and White Wyandotte cockerels. Barred P. Rock cockerels and pullets, \$1.50, \$2.00 and \$3.00. Orders booked now for Nov. 1st delivery. Yearling hens \$1. Your money back if you want it. **OTTER CREEK Poultry Farm**, Vergennes, Vt.

**6000 FERRETS.** Pure blood, furnished not akin. Finest strain in the land. Bred from good workers. Small, medium and large birds. Trained. Will kill rats and hunt rabbits. Price low. Safe arrival guaranteed. Book "Care and Working" free. **S. & L. Farnsworth**, New London, O.

**CLEAR GRIT, OYSTER SHELLS, MEAT MEAL**, cheapest and best on the market; also B. P. Rocks, White Indian Games, Brahma Bantams and W. C. Black Polish. As good as the best. Can please the most exacting. Write for list. **D. LINCOLN ORR**, Box 9, Orr's Mills, N. Y.

**Linden Poultry Yards**

**BUFF and BARRED ROCKS and BUFF COCHINS.**

We haven't all the best stock to be found, but we have some of it. A pleasure to send our circular if you mention A Few Hens. Ten fine Buff Leghorn hens and a 400-egg Reliable Incubator for sale. **C. B. CROWELL**, Brattleboro, Vt.

Mr. Dearing writes *A FEW HENS* as follows: "We also have a large house, barn and wagon house. I lost some chickens; don't think it was over 15 or 20 per cent. I had more trouble with brooder lamps than anything else. I have one house 75 feet long, heated with hot water pipes. It is the Prairie State sectional. I have six other brooder houses. I also winter 200 hens. When my chicks can live without artificial heat I sell off the hens and use their quarters for chicks. My chicks are always plump and healthy. But let me say right here, I don't pretend to say I have enough room, but it is all I have."

"The truthfulness of this report may be doubted. To such as may not believe, I would invite them to write to Mr. Pilen, chief of police; or Mr. Coleman, clerk of the court. Mr. Coleman lives within 20 rods of my poultry ranch. I have five breeding pens, and keep 40 hens in each. My hens lay fairly well.

"I have so much to do, I can only give an idea of what can be done on one acre of land. As soon as I have the time I will tell you how I feed and manage so much on so small a place."

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Another Edition. The publishers have just issued a new edition of the book "Broilers for Profit." As the edition run out a month or so ago, it was thought that it would be unnecessary to get out a new lot before fall, as there would scarcely be an order during the summer months. In this, however, we were mistaken. Almost every mail brought in orders, and a new edition at once became imperative. We make this announcement so that those ordering the book can understand why the delay.

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Reduction in Price. The *American Fancier Monthly* regrets that the *Poultry Monthly* cut its subscription rate in two. While we admit that the *Monthly* was cheap at \$1.00, at the same time we consider the step Editor Holmes has taken as a good business act. Much is being said by the older journals that we have entirely too many poultry papers—that they do more injury to the cause than good. We do not share in that belief, yet, if such is a fact, the only way to get rid of such papers is to organize a strong competition. If the better class of papers will reduce their subscription rate so as to be within the bounds of the average subscriber, it will not be long before the cheap-quality papers will die for want of support. It would be more honorable warfare than to be continually harping on the same string—trying to tear down another's business in order to build up your own.

The *American Fancier* costs \$1.00 a year. It is cheap at that price—as cheap as it is possible to sell a weekly publication. It is way below the price asked for the old *Fanciers' Journal*, which was published some years ago in Philadelphia, Pa. That publication charged \$2.50 for a year's subscription. It, too, was a 16 page weekly. Mr. Drenstedt, believing that a lower rate would be more popular, inaugurated his dollar weekly.

The *Ohio Poultry Journal* used to be a dollar magazine, but it never flourished until the "Great and Only" Braden reduced the price to 50 cents.

The *American Poultry Journal*, too, formerly cost \$1.00 per year, but when Editor Bates got hold of it he not only cut the price in half, but he greatly increased the size and attractions of the journal. From that time on it became a howling success.

So Editor Holmes is to be congratulated upon his shrewd business move. The days of high-priced literature of any kind have long since passed.

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No Need of Jealousy. *The Inter-State Poultryman*, in its August issue, says: "The egotist who goes up and down the country saying he is running the only poultry paper, will find out his mistake in the future. 'There are others,' and we flatter ourselves that we are one of the others—only one, not all."

"There is no need of jealousy among poultry publishers. If there is not room for all of them, the publishers who have not a good field to work in will find it out for themselves. So far as the *Inter-State Poultryman* is concerned, it wishes all legitimate publishers success. The publisher who runs a good paper the year round is entitled to support. The publisher who runs a journal to get the show trade only, and then gets out an indifferent paper the rest of the year, is not entitled to your confidence. The *Inter-State Poultryman* keeps steadily on the line each month in the year."

Yes, we know there is an egotist who is continually smiling at the efforts of other publications, and who is vain enough to believe that he has the only medium worth having. This same egotist, at the last New York show circulated the report that "A FEW HENS was a failure and Boyer is forced to resign from the paper." Nothing but jealousy promoted such a false report.

Thank goodness, we are not built of that sort of timber. It gives us pleasure to note the wonderful progress that is each year made in poultry publications.

It is remarkable how many good papers we have—so neatly printed and ably edited. There is not an industry on the face of this earth that can boast of such literary merit. It is equally remarkable how successful these papers and magazines are. The success of one helps the success of the others. Poultry publishers should work in harmony. They can be helping themselves while they are helping others. Shun the egotist.

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Poultry Poultrymen generally get Houses. up their own ideas in the construction of poultry houses. It is a noted fact that there are scarcely any two farms in the country that use practically the same style hen coop. Of late years the scratching sled idea has been brought out and adopted

STEYER'S LICE POWDER does the work. See advertisement.

**WHITE WYANDOTTES.**  
Fine Stock. WM. F. STROUD, Merchantville, N. J.

**The RELIABLE Nest Box**  
Points out each layer and her egg. Simple, Reliable, Safe, Cheap. 10 cents per nest. Complete Plans and Directions for making three styles, sent for \$1.00. Send for circular. Mention A Few Hens. M. L. NEWELL, Box 179, Denver, Colo.

**WHITE LEGHORN PLACE.**  
Some very choice yearlings and young stock for sale, only \$1.00. Eggs in season. Write quick. W. A. WARREN, Specialist, Ransomville, N. Y.

**OUR INCUBATORS EQUAL THE BEST.**  
They have all the latest improvements and are sold at very low prices and **GUARANTEED** to please every customer. Send 6c. for our 148 page catalogue which contains full descriptions of our extensive line and tells how to raise poultry successfully. Send for it at once. **DES MOINES INC'B CO.** Box 423 Des Moines, Iowa.

**Niagara Farm,**  
1899 BREEDING STOCK.

Mammoth Pekin Ducks, Pure White Wyandottes, Mammoth Belgian Hares, \$1.00 each. White Holland Turkeys, \$2.00 each. New Crop Niagara brand fine cut green cured Clover, \$1.50 per 100 pounds. One 400-egg size Prairie State Incubator, \$30.00, or will exchange for White Wyandottes.

**POULTRY SUPPLIES.**  
W. R. CURTISS & CO., Ransomville, N. Y.  
Circular.

## Poultry Supplies:

BOILED BEEF AND BONE, BOWKER'S ANIMAL MEAL, BRADLEY'S MEAT MEAL, BEEF SCRAPS, OYSTER SHELLS, MICA CRYSTAL GRIT, ORR'S CLEAR GRIT, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, CONKEY ROUP CURE, SAFETY AND PRIME EGG CASES, MEXICAN MUSTANG LINIMENT, P. D. Q. FLEA POWDER,	FEED TRAYS, LEG BANDS, CHINA EGGS, BONE CUTTERS, SHELL MILLS, CLOVER CUTTERS, KILLING KNIVES, WIRE NETTING, CAPONIZING SETS,	INCUBATOR THERMOMETERS, SULPHUR CANDLES, EGG TESTERS, BOOKS ON DOGS, CHICKENS, RABBITS, CATS, PIGEONS, ETC., SHERIDAN'S CONDITION POWDER, PRATT'S POULTRY FOOD, LEE'S LICE KILLER, GERMERZONE, GREELEY ROUP AND CHOLERA CURE, LAMBERT'S DEATH TO LICE, JOHNSON'S ANODYNE LINIMENT.
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Sole Manufacturers **BANNER EGG FOOD and TONIC.** Small Sample Free. New York and Export Agents for the Prairie State Incubators and Brooders.

Our Imminense Illustrated Catalogue Free. Mention A Few Hens.

**Excelsior Wire and Poultry Supply Co.,**  
W. V. RUSS, Proprietor. 28 Vesey St., New York City.

on more plants than any other system, and yet there are scarcely any two farms that have precisely the same style.

Yet, withal that, we are constantly being asked for plans for an improved house. We reply to all these as far as able, but have to refuse some for want of time.

The other evening, A. H. Whitmore, of Hanington, N. J., called with a model of a practical house which he had invented. For compactness and practical worth, it is worthy of attention. There is not a foot of waste space, and everything is so arranged that all the work can be done without much labor. We were so impressed with the plan that we advised Mr. Whitmore to advertise the sale of plans, which he does in this issue. For 15 cents he will send drawings and full specifications. If you are about building, get these plans and see how you like them. The investment is a small one.

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**Puritan Farms.** What is supposed to be the largest broiler plant in the East is that of the Puritan Poultry Farms, located at Newfield, a short distance from Stamford, Conn., owned and operated by D. A. De Lima & Co. It is devoted exclusively to market poultry raising. The Plymouth Rock fowl is exclusively used, bred for utility only.

The office building is 32x64 feet, and two stories high. In addition to furnishing office room, it also contains sleeping apartments for the watchman, picking and shipping rooms, and a grain loft which takes up the entire upper part of the building. This building is constructed upon a local rock foundation, the thickness of which is 2 1-2 feet at the base and 2 feet at the top. This wall is glutted with cement, both inside and out, and the inside facing is closely pointed with the cement and lime giving secure protection against dampness and sudden changes in the temperature, this having been given especial attention as the cellar is used for their incubator department. There are some 30 incubators of the Prairie State, Cyphers and Star makes in this department.

From the incubator cellar one passes out a rear door and finds the brooder houses but a few steps distant. These buildings, two in number, are 140 and 180 feet respectively in length, and are divided into pens, 5x10 feet, having runs, 5x40 feet.

The brooder house itself is heated by a system of hot water pipes distinct from those used in the brooders, thus insuring an even temperature and lessening the danger of chilling the chicks on their exit from the brooders. These buildings are both built upon 5 or 6 feet of solid rock foundation, running the entire length, the whole bottom of the brooder houses being underlaid with 1-2 inch rat wire to prevent the foraging expeditions of the weasles and the rats.

After the chicks have been in brooder house No. 1 for about 5 weeks they are transferred to house No. 2, and after being there for the same length of time they are ready for market, are killed

and dry-picked, and shipped to the New York office of the firm, which is located at No. 105 West 36th street, opposite the *Herald* building.

The breeding stock is kept in 6 buildings, one 180 feet long, one 60 feet, and four 42 feet each. These buildings are divided into pens 6x14 feet each, with a cement hall in the rear extending the entire length of the building, the feeding, watering, gathering eggs, and cleaning the dropping boards, all being done from this hallway. The nests are about 18 inches from the floor, with a door opening into the hall, above this is a sort of second story arrangement or box for confining the setters, and still above this are the roosts and drooping boards which are cleaned every morning.

Ten hens are kept in each pen with one cockerel, which is allowed to remain in the pen for one week when he is relieved by another, and is given free range for seven days, after which he goes to the pen situated next to his, and so on until his rotation of the building is complete.

That their stock is remarkably strong and healthy is vouched for by the following record of one of their pens: This pen of 8 hens laid in 6 months, 616 eggs, 586 of which were fertile, 538 of which hatched, 483 of which lived, and 204 pullets of these are now on hand, the remaining cockerels and 14 pullets being marketed.

The feed cooking and power house, 60 x 90 feet, is by no means an unimportant feature of the plant. It is supplied by power from a stationery engine and also by a large wind mill, which runs the machinery for grinding feed, bone and shell. Capacious bins are located along one side of the entire building in which are stored the various kinds of feed, this department being looked after by Mr. Adams, of the firm.

Their reputation for producing such healthy stock has become so widespread that they have been continually asked for their directions for feeding and what

## Our Bone Cutter Book

treating of balanced rations for all fowls, young or old, will interest any poultryman. It also tells about the Webster & Hannum—the only bone cutter receiving an award at *World's Fair, Chicago*. Also Clover Cutters and Grit Crushers.

It is free, but may save you many dollars on your feed bill. Write for it.

**E. C. STEARNS & CO., Box 6 Syracuse, N. Y.**



**Hatch CHICKENS.**  
WITH THE  
**EXCELSIOR INCUBATOR**  
Simple, Perfect, Self-regulating. Thousands in successful operation. Guaranteed to hatch a larger percentage of fertile eggs at less cost than any other Hatcher.  
**C. H. STAHL**, Patentee and Sole Manufacturer.

## SCRATCHING SHEDS

would be a mistake if they were intended for convenient places for hens to "scratch," on account of the lice. Like all our enemies, lice are always with us. To defeat these murderous pests requires an article that will "touch the spot" the moment it is applied. There are many preparations on the market, and they no doubt deserve considerable praise, but we know that there is no article that will do the work like **STEYER'S LICE POWDER**. It is a combination of several valuable articles, each one of which would in itself be effective—the combination, however, makes it all the more prompt in its action. At all times it is safe to handle. Endorsed by Michael K. Boyer, editor *A FEW HENS*.

Price 20 cents per pound; seven pounds for \$1.00

**A. F. STEYER & CO., 2605 North 18th Street, Philadelphia, Pa.**

to feed. These inquiries have been coming in upon them so fast that a short time since they decided to place their "Puritan Chick Food" on the market, and already the demand has become so great that their mills are in operation the greater part of the time.

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**Trap Nest Boxes.** It is our intention to give a decision on the trap nests trials in our next issue. We have been giving the contest strict attention, showing no partiality. We are as desirous of finding out which are the most practical nests as our readers could be, for, we believe, on the accurate workings of a nest will depend the future generation of good layers.

It is wonderful how many trap nests have sprung up throughout the country. We are glad to see this interest developing, for by their use, only the best

**CUT CLOVER** in sacks. \$1.25 for 100 pounds. **J. G. QUIRIN**, Tioga Center, N. Y.

**PIT GAMES.** Eggs, \$1.50 per 15. **C. G. BAXTER**, Merchantville, N. J.

**R. I. REDS.** Prolific layers. Eggs, 26, \$1.50; \$4 pr. 100. Stk in season. **E. S. Piper**, Camden, Me.

**MICHAEL K. BOYER**, editor *A FEW HENS*, has tried and fully endorses Steyer's Lice Powder.

## 33 Ribbons Boston and New York.

Mr. Boyer recommends my stock and myself. My Rose C. Brown has a record of over 220 eggs to a hen in '98, '99. S. C. Browns and Rose, second to none in the world. White and Barred Rocks, Bradley & Thompson stock. Pekin Ducks, 10 lb. stock. Buff Leghorns, Wh. Leghorns, (Whiting). Wh. Wyans, (Dustin). Bl. Langshans and Minorca. Stock all of best blood. Cocks, hens, cockerels and pullets for sale. A Buff Cochim cock, \$3.50.

**W. W. KULP**, Pottstown, Pa.

**I. K. FELCH & SON,**  
Box K, Natick, Mass.

**Light Brahma, Plymouth Rocks,**  
and White Wyandottes,

—BRED ON PRACTICAL LINES.—  
Standard Points and Egg Records Combined.  
Enclose stamps for 24 page catalogue.

**BARRED ROCK EGGS** from yard headed by Cockerel from A. C. Hawkins. Hens are large, nice shape, well marked, and good layers. \$1.00 for 13. A few settings Indian Game eggs, yard headed by first Cockerel, Washington, D. C., December, '97. \$2.00 per 13. Pekin Duck eggs, Pollard stock, \$1.00 per 13. C. C. SHORB, McDaniel, Md.

## Poultry Printing

I make a specialty of poultry printing, having cuts of all kinds of poultry. Anything you want in that line you will save money by asking for prices.

**UNION PRINTING CO.**, Anthony, R. I.



Most efficient small incubator ever invented. Perfect in every detail. Just the thing Catalogs Free. for poultry raising on a small scale, 50 egg capacity.

**114 to 122 S. Sixth St., QUINCY, ILL.**

layers will be retained on farms, and each generation of pullets will be improved layers. There is no reason why we should not breed for 200-egg layers as 100-egg.

All the nests we are using in contest are doing about the same work as reported in last issue, and we will have some difficulty in rating them. We shall not only take into consideration the fact that they securely trap the hen, that not more than one hen can get in the nest, the amount of ventilation given the hen while on the nest, the ease of removing the hen, etc. The nest must be accurate, convenient and comfortable.

It has been argued by the manufacturers of some traps, that the hen prefers a dark nest, and that in such a nest she is not apt to develop the vice of egg eating. That is true to a certain extent. But at the same time it must not be forgotten that a dark nest is generally a poorly ventilated one, and this is apt to cause considerable suffering for the hen during hot weather.

Since last issue, Mr. John Geishaker, of Hammonton, has improved his Cuckoo nest, and entered it in the contest. The improvement is a decided gain, as it makes it more convenient to get at the hen.

The contest has narrowed down to the following inventions: Mr. Wellcome's "Ideal"; Mr. Newall's "Reliable," Style C; Mr. Lloyd's "Uneeda"; Mr. Woodhead's "American"; Mr. Geishaker's "A Few Hens"; Mr. Geishaker's "Cuckoo." The other traps that started out with us in the contest, we have from time to time removed according to their impracticability. Whenever a nest made us do any guessing as to which hen the egg belonged, or when we found it an easy matter for two hens to get on the same nest at the same time, we had no further use for it. We are after an accurate nest, and we are going to find it.

Nothing has brought out these nest traps so much as the demand of the buying public for fowls with large egg records. It was the advance steps made in the utility cause that demanded some invention by which the individual good layers could be selected from the drones. In our contest we have been able to discover hens that did not lay enough eggs in the season to pay for their board, and then we have found some that were almost every-day layers. Of course we will breed from the better ones, and the poor layers will be introduced to the butcher's block.

These nests have also shown us that those Wyandottes of ours which laid the brownest eggs, were the poorer layers, while one hen in particular, which laid an egg as white as that of any Leghorn, gave us the best record. We do not say this will hold out, as a rule, but the past season, with our stock, it has.

Every now and then we trap the cock bird of one of the pens. He is a very inquisitive fellow, besides he is exceedingly gallant. In order to fix up the nest for his mates, he enters it and makes a great fuss. Of course the trap springs and he is imprisoned. Very patiently he waits to be released.

WHEN your poultry are lousy, try Steyer's Lice Powder. It will bring good results.

#### [GEESE FOR PROFIT—Continued.]

to be made in the keeping of geese, breeding birds should be placed in their new quarters some weeks before the laying season begins, or a good number of fertile eggs will probably not be obtained.

Wm. Rankin, a veteran goose breeder, cites the instance of a goose owned in Boxford, Mass., where it was the property of one family for 101 years, and was then killed by the kick of a horse. She had laid 15 eggs and was sitting on them when a horse approached too near the nest; she rushed off, in defence of her eggs, seized the horse by the tail, and was killed by a kick from the animal.

Geese have a long tenure of life, far exceeding any other domestic animal in this respect. In former times it was not uncommon for the farmer's daughter, on her wedding day, to receive, among other gifts, a goose from the old homestead, to become her property and accompany her to her new home. In some instances such geese were kept for many years, perhaps far beyond the life of the young lady to whom it was presented.

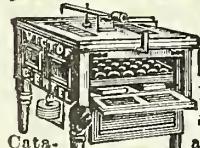
As has been before stated, geese are grazing animals to a greater extent than any other class of poultry. In fact, they live and thrive on good pasture and water, although of course they do not make the rapid growth that may be secured when some grain is fed; on the other hand, however, it is not possible, probably, to raise goslings on an exclusive grain diet without a liberal supply of clover, cabbage, roots, apples, or some succulent vegetable food.

Ganders, during the breeding season, and even the geese when sitting, or in defence of their young, manifest considerable courage and often punish intruders severely. When interfered with they seize the intruder with the bill, strike with the wings, and sometimes scratch with the claws. They have sufficient power in the jaws to bite quite hard, and a large, full grown gander has been known to strike hard enough with the wings to break a person's arm.

**BUFF LEGHORNS.** 15 eggs, \$1. Most complete catalogue ever issued on this peerless breed, free. V. M. MARKEN, Frederick, Md.

#### White Wyandottes, Buff Plymouth Rocks

Pedigreed strains. Prolific layers of large brown eggs. Stock unsurpassed for vigor, shape and color. Utility and beauty combined. Eggs, \$1.00 per 15. CHARLES H. CANNEY, Dover, N. H.

**THE IMPROVED VICTOR INCUBATOR**  
  
 Hatches Chickens by Steam  
 Absolutely self-regulating.  
 The simplest, most reliable,  
 and cheapest first-class Hatcher  
 in the market. Circulars free.  
 GEO. ERTEL CO., Quincy, Ill.

"Best Liver Pill Made."  
**Parsons' Pills**

Positively cure biliousness and sick headache, liver and bowel complaints. They expel all impurities from the blood. Delicate women find relief from using them. Price 25 cts.; five \$1.00. Pamphlet free. I. S. JOHNSON & CO., 22 Custom House St., Boston.

William Rankin, about 25 years ago, purchased in Rhode Island a wild gander which had been owned by one family some 50 years. A member of the family had wounded the gander by firing into a flock of wild geese, breaking his wing. The gander recovered from his injury and was kept for that number of years, without, however, mating with other geese. He is now kept and used as a decoy bird during the gunning season, and highly valued by his owner, although at least 75 years old.

Saunders says: "If we traverse a pasture or common on which geese are kept, we find the flocks of the respective owners keeping together; and if by chance they mingle on the pond or sheet of water, they separate towards evening and retire, each flock to its own domicile. On extensive commons, where many thousands of geese are kept, the rule is scarcely ever broken; the flocks of young geese brought up together as their parents were before them, form a united band, and thus distinct groups herd together, bound by ties of habit."

A goose was exhibited at the New Jersey State fair, 1859, and her history, on a placard posted on the coop, read as follows: "Madam Goose is now owned by Robert Schomp, of Reading, Hunterdon County, N. J. She has been in his possession 25 years, and was given to him by his grandfather, Major H. G. Schomp. Robert's father is now in his 85th year, and this goose was a gift to his mother as a part of her marriage outfit. The mate of Madam Goose was killed in the Revolutionary War, being rode over by a troop of cavalry. In the spring of 1857 she laid 6 eggs, three of which were hatched and the goslings raised. In 1858 she made 7 nests and laid but 2 eggs, evidence perhaps of failing faculties. Her eyes are becoming dim, one having almost entirely failed. The year of her birth cannot be known, but she remains a representative of the olden time."

**200 BREEDERS** of all varieties for sale. 75 Cockerels, cheap. Write your wants and I will give you low prices.  
 JAMES M. SMITH, Perkiomenville, Montg. Co., Pa.

#### BUFF ROCKS.

The best all-round fowl for fanciers and farmers alike. We will have young stock for sale after September.  
 FORD BROS., Oak Hill, N. Y.

**BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS** and **PEKIN DUCKS**, they are bred for good laying, and a fine market bird when dressed. Eggs for hatching from the same pens we breed from ourselves, \$1.50 pr. sitting; two sittings, \$2.50. WM. WATMORE,  
 Moorestown, P. O., Lenola, N. J.

**PURE BRED PEKIN DUCKS** for sale. As fine ducks as go on two feet. Prices right. Also some fine Barred Rock Cockerels later in season.  
 GEORGE H. BUTLER, Eliot, Maine.

#### Trap Nest.

You "push the button" the hen "does the rest." You get the hen and the egg.

W. M. LLOYD, Tuckahoe, N. Y.

## Questions Briefly Answered.

Condensed Replies to the Many Inquiries Received at this office.

## BREEDS.

Mrs. E. C.: White Wyandottes with greenish colored legs are apt to have a color of skin of the same cast.

Mrs. S. E. B.: About the only difference between the Barred and White Plymouth Rocks is in point of plumage. Otherwise, as far as our experience goes, they are practically the same.

F. P.: The Barred Plymouth Rocks are excellent winter layers, but we have found them no better than the White Wyandotte and the Light Brahmans.

M. Y. P.: The White Crested Black Polish years ago were rated among our best laying breeds, but of late years there has been too much attention given in breeding for crest, that the practical qualities of the breed have been more or less sacrificed.

S. C. P.: We do not care yet to say much about the Rhode Island Reds, as we are only starting with the breed. Our chicks will run about two pounds each in weight. As chicks we have found them hardy and vigorous—what they will do as pullets and hens remains to be seen. We believe they will make good broilers; we have Prof. Cushman's word for it that they are good layers.

## FOOD AND FEEDING.

W. A. S.: What is known as shorts is the bran and coarse part of meal, in mixture.

F. T.: Twice a day is often enough to feed in summer, when fowls are confined to runs, excepting a meal of cut grass at noon when you have it. Fowls having a range where grass and bugs abound, need only be fed in the evening.

M. W. F.: It is not necessary to feed much meat, if any, during the summer, if the hens have a good range where they can get insects.

C. H. I.: There are a number of good meat meals and scraps upon the market. We feed Animal Meal, put up by the Bowker Co., of Boston, and prefer it. Twice a week we give a noon feed of green cut bone.

H. A. F.: We do not know of a good book on the art of feeding. You will find the cream of such information in each issue of A FEW HENS.

L. P. T.: We don't know that the value of clover can be lessened by being ground to a meal. We cannot see how it could.

T. O. B.: A pure bran mash is apt to be too loosening. Equal parts of middlings should be added to it.

R. E. T.: Fowls do not eat so heartily during hot weather as they do when the days are cool. This may be the cause of your fowls not having a very good appetite.

M. P. V.: We add Sheridan's Condition Powder to the mash, especially at this season of the year, as it helps fowls during the moult.

T. W. L.: Buckwheat is a grain that must be fed cautiously, as it is very fattening.

## EGGS.

H. N. J.: For about 20 years we remember poultry writers agitating the necessity of selling eggs by weight, and we are about as far from adopting that method as we were then.

S. H.: The egg shell hardens before the egg is laid.

B. R. C.: Lack of sufficient lime in the food is not the only cause for soft shelled eggs, but it is the general one. Overfat will produce a like condition.

M. B. C.: It is a good hen that takes less than 200 days off from laying.

Y. C. G.: No manufacturers of condition powder claim that their preparations make eggs. They do claim, however, that said articles purify the blood, create an appetite, and strengthen the organs so that egg production is better.

B. R. F.: Extreme hot weather, like extreme cold weather, has a like tendency to check egg production and lessen the fertility.

D. G. B.: We never did believe that the use of nest eggs increased egg production. Nest eggs are useful in persuading hens to lay in certain places, but that is about the extent.

I. S. J.: With the average number of eggs laid, and the average cost of feed, the cost of producing an egg is as near one cent each as it can be figured.

G. A. S.: You cannot force a hen to lay while she is moulting. She will produce just as many eggs as she is able, as she needs so much strength and nurture to brave through the strain that she is undergoing in growing feathers.

SEND a 2-cent stamp to A. F. Steyer & Co., 2605 North 18th Street, Philadelphia, Pa., for a free sample of Steyer's Lice Powder.

## BROILERS AND CHICKS.

Mrs. E. C. C.: For sun, we cover the chick runs with any old bagging. For protection from rain, and which is equally good for sun, is a strip of Neponset paper, set on a frame so it will not blow away. Brown ducking is also good.

Mrs. E. C. C.: Chicks can be raised to broiler weight in a run 4 x 16 feet if properly fed and cared for.

A. O. C.: For 25 cents we can send you a book on caponizing which will, we think, give the desired information wanted.

F. R. F.: We are not booked on show room judging, but do not see how a judge could count a hole in the web of the foot as a defect.

S. C. R.: Chicks can be successfully hatched in July and August. The main difficulty is to raise them unless you have a shady spot to quarter them. An orchard would be just the thing.

F. P.: It is likely the swelling on the neck of the young chick is an air blister. Prick it with a needle, and see if the air does not escape.

## TRAP NEST.

Patent applied for.  
Send for a circular of the RECORD.  
S. A. McWILLIAMS, Jr.,  
3456 Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

## HEN WANTS.

If you want your hens to be profitable you must supply them with the necessary food and appliances—working material. We handle a most full and complete **POULTRY SUPPLIES** embracing line of... everything from a poultry bit to an incubator. We mail **FREE** a large illustrated catalogue containing full description and prices to all interested inquirers.

HARVEY SEED CO., 35 Ellicott Street, Buffalo, N. Y.



## The NO MOISTURE kind.

The **Star Incubator** imitates nature more nearly than any other. You do not supply moisture for the old hen; neither need you for our machine. This is why chicks hatched in the **Star** are stronger than those hatched in other incubators. Our guarantee talks—**your money back if you want it.** Catalogue free. **STAR INCUBATOR CO., Bound Brook, N. J.**

## Most Practical Value

FOR THE MONEY.

Two Poultry Papers, for only \$1.00.

FARM-POULTRY, semi-monthly, one year,	- - - - -	\$1.00
A FEW HENS, monthly, one year,	- - - - -	.25
Book, A LIVING FROM POULTRY,	by Boyer,	.25
Book, PROFITABLE POULTRY FARMING,	by Boyer,	.25
Book, BROILERS FOR PROFIT,	by Boyer,	.50
Book, FARM-POULTRY DOCTOR,	by Sanborn,	.50

All, if ordered separately, \$2.75

IF ordered at one time, \$1.50.

BOTH PAPERS ALONE ONE YEAR, \$1.00.

Or, the two papers and any two books, \$1.30. No other changes in the combination allowed.

I. S. JOHNSON & CO., 22 Custom House St., Boston, Mass.

B. B.: The chicks must not be removed from the incubator until they are thoroughly dry.

B. B.: The chicks will dry in the incubator, even if there is moisture in the machine, unless you are having a regular steam.

B. B.: The temperature of the brooder, when the young chicks are first put into it, should be about 90 degrees.

B. B.: Eighty degrees is warm enough for chicks about two weeks of age, if the temperature remains steady at that.

B. B.: The loss of your chicks from bowel trouble was caused by catching cold. Seventy degrees was too low for night heat for young chicks.

\*\*\*

## DISEASES.

G. M.: We know of no plan for getting rid of head lice on chicks excepting by coating the hen's feathers with kerosene oil. The heads of the young coming in contact with this oil will kill the lice. Where chicks are not running with the hen, put a drop of sweet oil on the head of each chick, rubbing it well among the feathers.

G. M.: We keep our fowls practically free from lice by keeping the premises clean, cleaning up the droppings every morning, kerosening the roosts every week, disinfecting the house once a week, and whitewashing several times a year.

M. G. P.: Roup, the genuine article, is incurable. We would rather believe that your chickens are suffering from distemper. We should never eat, nor offer for sale a fowl or chick that may have had the roup and apparently cured. If you dispose of the stock, disinfect the buildings and soil well, and grow a green crop in the latter before you introduce new stock.

S. C. R.: For chicks suffering from indigestion and diarrhoea, put a pinch of baking soda in the drinking water, and mix powdered charcoal in the soft feed. See that they get good grit.

\*\*\*

## BUILDING.

C. R. P.: The brooders you have been using outdoor brooders, any kind of building will do. A plain shed, in fact, will answer.

W. V. R.: For several years we have been experimenting with shingle and Neponset paper roofs, and find that the latter gives not only a cheaper roof, but there is less liability of leaking, and frost does not gather during the winter.

J. A. W.: In our incubator room we have the Neponset paper on the ceiling, sides, and on the floor. In order to make it perfectly tight, we have it lapped well. So far we are more than pleased with it.

G. O. B.: No special design of a brooder house is necessary for a sectional brooder. Any building, for that matter, will do.

F. B.: To make the floor rat proof, tack 1-2 inch wire netting on the joists, and then lay the board floor over that.

F. E. H.: Never use a top rail on the fence; it would be better to hang the netting on heavy wire.

S. H. C.: All poultry houses should have a double wall, with air space between the walls, if they are to be comfortable quarters during the winter.

P. O.: It is a mistake to have high ceilings in the hen house. All such buildings are entirely too cold in winter. We believe in having them just high enough so that one can walk in them without striking the head.

W. D. S.: The nests should be movable, and never built fast to the sides of the building. A convenient place for nests is under the dropping platform.

J. A. H.: Our poultry house is built in three sections. Each section measures 7 x 16 feet, of which 7 x 10 is the scratching shed. There is a run both in front and back of each section, measuring 16 x 50 feet each. While we have the flock running in the one run, the other is sown to some green crop as oats or rye. Our houses are 7 feet high in front, and 4 feet in the rear, and have a slant roof.

## ABOUT MATING.

W. H. M.: You can mate the cockerels with the pullets of the same hatch. It will not be inbreeding, as the chances are that the hen that laid the egg from which the cockerel hatched did not lay the eggs from which the pullets hatched, so there could be no inbreeding.

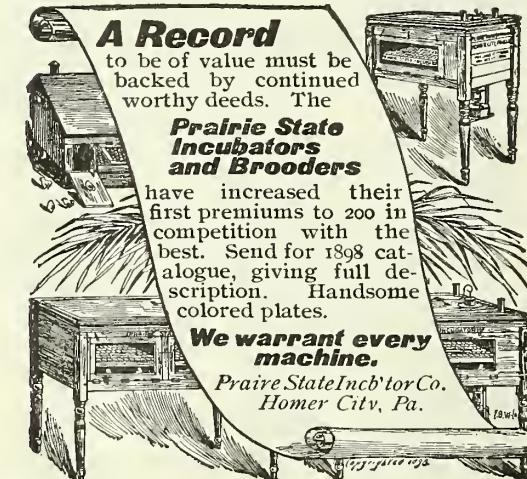
T. T. O.: As it is nearing moulting season, it is best to remove the male birds from the pen and keep them separate. At this season the feathers starting to loosen up, frequent attentions of the male will make the backs of the hens bare and often cut the skin. Take such hens away from the rest, and if wounded anoint the sore with carbolated vaseline, when it will quickly heal.

## CLOSING OUT SALE.

We have remaining twelve two-year-old hens, S. C. Brown Leghorns, which will go at 75 cents each. Also four pullets that will lay in September, at \$1.00. Stock bred for eggs and all right.

Stock and eggs from large, healthy, farm-raised White Wyandottes only, after September 1st.

HOMESTEAD POULTRY FARM, Hopkinton, Mass.



**CHILD'S WYANDOTTES**  
SILVER AND WHITE.  
WM. H. CHILD, . . . HATBORO, PA.

B. R. C.: An excellent mating is two-year-old hens with one-year-old male birds. It is a mating that means strong fertility and rugged stock. Breeding from pullets under 9 months of age, is not desirable, as there is not sufficient stamina there for good results.

B. A. B.: Matings should be made according to the object in view. If a man is starting an egg farm, or wants to build up a strain of good layers, he must mate his best layers. So it is in breeding for meat, and also in striving to get certain points, as in the fancy.

G. H. S.: Never mate a fowl that has had a severe spell of sickness and apparently cured. There is, as a rule, always some weakness left, and the young are bound to inherit it. If particular care is taken in this, there will be stronger and more profitable future generations.

## \*\*\* MISCELLANEOUS.

J. F. R.: We do not know of any one who would be willing to take control of your poultry plant on shares. The really good men are either in business for themselves, or are employed on salary only.

A. S. L.: About the most humane way of breaking up broody hens that we know of is to place them in runs with a young cockerel. No nests are allowed in the coop.

D. F. McD.: You can get an excellent egg record and account book for 25 cents by addressing H. A. Kuhns, Atlanta, Ga.

B. N. M.: There is no malaria in Hammonston.

S. C.: We cannot enlighten you on the age of doves, as it is a species of bird that we are not familiar with. This is a poultry paper.

G. P. B.: We will give the result of the nest box contest in our next issue. See editorial pages.

B. B.: The Von Culen incubator is no doubt a good one, but we cannot speak from experience as we have never tried them.

J. C. G.: For \$1 we will send A FEW HENS one year, and throw in the bargain a complete set of the Poultryman's Library (four books).

**STEYER'S LICE POWDER** is a good disinfectant for poultry houses.

**FOR SALE.** S. C. White Leghorn cockerels; fine stock; 75c. each. J. A. Ainge, Dover, N. J.

**Brown Leghorns**, 12 hens, 1 c'k'l, cheap. Young stock after Sept. 1st. Zundel Bros., Grapeville, Pa.



## Our Market Report.

An Accurate Account of the Highest, Lowest and Average Prices for the Best Market Stock, Paid During the Month of July—Goods Not up to the Standard Received Proportionately Less.

## NEW YORK.

Furnished A FEW HENS by Dulany & Branin, 41 Hewitt Avenue, New York City.

	Highest,	Lowest,	Av.,
Fresh eggs.....	17	16	16 2-3
Philada. Roasting Chickens, 23	23	23	
Broilers.....	30	20	24
Fowls.....	13	11	12 1-4
Ducks.....	15	12	13 2-5
Turkeys.....			
Capons.....			

## PHILADELPHIA.

Furnished A FEW HENS by Philip Quigley, 303 South Front St., Philadelphia, Pa.

	Highest,	Lowest,	Av.,
Fresh Eggs.....	14 1-2	13	13 3-4
Hens, live.....	12 1-2	11	11 3-4
Hens, dressed.....	12	11	11 2-3
Roasting Chickens, live....	20	12	19 2-7
Roasting Chickens, dressed	28	18	21 1-6
Old Roosters, live.....	8	7	7 1-8
Old Roosters, dressed.....	8	7	7 1-2
Broilers, live .....			
Broilers, dressed.....			
Frying chickens, live.....			
Frying chickens, dressed..			
Capons.....			
Capons, slips.....			
Ducks, live.....	11	9	10
Ducks, dressed .....			
Spring Ducks.....			
Geese, live.....			
Geese, dressed .....			
Turkeys, live....			
Turkeys, dressed .....			

## BOSTON.

Furnished A FEW HENS by Bennett, Rand & Co., 20 North Market St., Boston, Mass.

	Highest,	Lowest,	Av.,
Eggs, nearby and Cape .....	21	19	20
Eggs, Eastern, .....	16	16	16
Eggs, Vt. and N. H.....	16	16	16
Eggs, West'n, selected fresh	15	14 1-2	14 2-3
Eggs, Southern .....			
NORTHERN and EASTERN.			
Chickens, dressed.....			
Chickens, live.....	16	14	15
Fowls, dressed .....	13	13	13
Fowls, live.....	12	11	11 2-3
Roosters, live.....	7	7	7
Broilers, nearby.....	20	18	19
Chickens, Jersey .....			
Fowls, Jersey.....			
Ducks, dressed .....	17	16	16 1-2
Geese, dressed.....			
WESTERN.			
Turkeys, .....	11	11	11
Turkeys, old toms.....	10 1-2	10 1-2	10 1-2
Chickens.....			
Fowls.....	12	11	11 2-3
Ducks.....			
Geese.....			
Old cocks .....	7 1-2	7	7 1-4
Capons, large.....			
Capons, small and medium			
Capons, slips.....			

## Fruit and Poultry Farm,

18 acres, situated in Hammonton, N. J. Nine acres in small fruits; 900 standard fruit trees—pears, peaches, apples, cherries and plums. Vineyard of 425 choice grape vines. House of nine rooms, well shaded, and lawns. Three good poultry houses, with large yards and shade. Hammonton is within the Isothermal line, which marks the great health belt of New Jersey. Water soft. Persons wishing to escape the rigors of Northern winters, will find Hammonton an admirable place, where they can profitably and easily till the soil and engage in the poultry business the year round. Satisfactory reasons given for selling. Price, \$3,000. Address, J. E. WATKIS, Hammonton, N. J. Or, Michael K. Boyer, editor A FEW HENS.

## CHICAGO.

Furnished A FEW HENS by the Sprague Commission Co., 218 So. Water St., Chicago, Ill.

	Highest,	Lowest,	Av.,
Eggs, Duck .....			
Eggs, Goose.....			
Eggs, fresh.....	12 1-2	11 1-2	12
Chickens, hens, scalded....	9 1-2	9	9 1-4
Chickens, hens, alive.....	9	8 1-2	8 1-4
Chickens, frozen stock....			
Spring chickens, scalded..	15	11 1-2	13
Spring chicks, dry-picked..			
Spring chickens, live.....	15	11	13
Broilers, live.....			
Capons.....			
Capons, slips.....			
Roosters, old, live.....	6	5 1-2	5 3-4
Roosters, young, live .....	6	5 1-2	5 3-4
Roosters, dressed .....	6	6	6
Ducks, live.....	11	8 1-2	9 3-4
Ducks, dressed .....	11	10	10 2-3
Geese, live, per dozen.....	\$6	\$5	\$5.50
Geese, dressed.....	7	7	7
Turkey hens, dressed.....	8 1-2	8	8 1-4
Turkey hens, live.....	8 1-2	8	8 1-4
Turkey gobbl'r's, y'n'g, dr			
Turkey gobblers, dressed..	7 1-2	7	7 1-4

## Notes in Passing.

News in the Market Poultry World—Hints that May be of Value—Paragraphs from Our Exchanges.

Does hot weather knock your enthusiasm?

"Muscle to win must be lubricated with brains."

Order and attention must be the watchword and practice.

Study and care, not luck and large talk, are the elements of success in the poultry yard.

The great statesman, Daniel Webster, was an exhibitor at the first poultry show ever held in the United States.

"Like produces like," "the best is the cheapest," "go slow," and "be diligent in all things," are old sayings which should be the mottoes of the beginners.

A scrub may be useful, so is a rag carpet. Both are made up of unfathomable mixtures. They serve a purpose, but fail to cultivate a desire for the beautiful, says *American Fancier*.

Those people who are looking for something easy should give the poultry industry a wide berth, says *Pacific Poultryman*, for no lazy man can succeed with chickens, but, if he is willing to work, a living awaits him in the poultry business.

## IF BOTH PAPERS

ARE ORDERED

We Will Make the Price as Follows:

A FEW HENS one year, 25 Cents.  
FARM-POULTRY one year, 75 Cents.  
BOTH \$1.00.

This saves you twenty per cent,  
as the regular price is \$1.25.

SEND ALL ORDERS TO  
I. S. JOHNSON & CO., BOSTON, MASS.

FOR MOLTING  
HENS  
USE  
SHERIDAN'S  
CONDITION  
POWDER

JOHN R. JONES, of Suffield, Conn., says:—"I find Sheridan's Condition Powder fed once daily in the food, very valuable for molting hens. It assists in growing new feathers, makes the combs bright red, and gives a rich, natural gloss to the plumage. Have used it for years."

When your hens show signs of molting, feed them once daily, in a hot bran mash, SHERIDAN'S POWDER. It will help your hens to get their new coat quickly and will bring young pullets to early laying. Do this and you will have as others do who have tried the plan, an abundance of eggs to sell in the fall and winter months when eggs sell from 25 to 45 cents per dozen.

C. A. GRAVES, of West Whately, Mass., says:—"Sheridan's Condition Powder, is in my opinion the best egg producer ever discovered. I have fed it for three years and shall continue its use for growing stock, as it helps to develop and hasten the maturity of pullets."

J. W. HEGE, of Williamson, Pa., says:—"I received \$5.00 worth of Sheridan's Powder of you. Began to feed the Powder at once. Our eggs increased three times the amount in a month's feeding. I can say if the farmer will begin to feed Sheridan's Condition Powder early in the fall, his hens will be ready to lay daily when eggs commence to rise."

Sold by Druggists, Grocers and Feed Dealers, or sent by mail. Large cans most economical to buy.

IF YOU CAN'T GET IT NEAR HOME, SEND TO US. ASK FIRST.  
We send one pack, 25 cts; five, \$1.00. A two-pound can, \$1.20; Six, \$5.00. Express paid. Sample copy "best Poultry paper" sent free. I. S. JOHNSON & CO., 22 Custom House St., Boston, Mass.

H. S. Babcock says in the *Country Gentleman* that in his opinion, the White Leghorn is the hardiest among pure white fowls. He has found the white varieties of any given breed more delicate than the colored varieties of the same breed except in Leghorns. With the latter the white variety has always seemed to be fully as hardy as any of the colored varieties.

Hot weather necessitates the observance of strictly business principals in poultry raising, says G. O. Brown. The experienced poultry raiser knows that on the good care of the flock in hot weather depends their future welfare—their becoming a source of profit. A flock neglected in summer will not recover in fall in time to withstand the rigors of winter.

The *Southern Poultry Journal* says: The wonder to us is that we have so few women raising poultry. It is a womanly business. Hundreds of women are killing themselves over the sewing machine, and thousands are sacrificing in the stores, on the streets and public places in our towns and cities, the grandest jewel that ever bedecked woman—modesty.

Judge Brown thinks there are too many poultrymen who let their enthusiasm go down as the mercury in the thermometer goes up. The men who make marked success in poultry raising are those who never flag in their attention—those who know that the increased labor and close attention hot weather brings must be religiously observed; that it is a critical time to let neglect creep in.

The road to success in poultry raising, which reaches the goal of profit, is not all smooth and level. Where the road is the most difficult, the owner must drive, says Geo. O. Brown, for personal observation is necessary to avoid snags that wreck. One of the prominent factors of success is proper care and feeding of the flock in hot weather. Failures are made when poultry is neglected in hot weather.

V. M. Couch, in *Practical Poultryman*, says it is especially important that one should have a thorough knowledge of the breed he has chosen to keep, and the beginner will do well to limit his fancy to one variety. Study carefully the principal defects that retard its improvement, also the most desirable features to be produced, and he should familiarize himself with the whole work, as it is positively essential to the profitable outcome of the enterprise.

The *American Stock Keeper* says farmers who have kept a strict account with their stock say that a pound of poultry can be grown for less than a pound of pork; yet the laboring man who has to buy both feels that he cannot afford to buy poultry often, as it costs more than other meats. This leads another publication to remark that the poultry-growing business may be much extended before the market will be overstocked so as to bring the price down where it will pay.

*Poultry Keeper* says: No farmer will buy show birds if he must "double mate"—that is to have one yard to produce Standard pullets and another

for cockerels. Further, sales to the "fancy" may be well enough, but when the great army of farmers and poultrymen are left out then the "fancy" will drop. The most sensible thing the standard makers can do is to require birds to be as they should be, making allowance for nature's laws, and eliminate the nonsense from breeding.

The hen house furnishes a very rich manure for the garden, says *Maine Farmer*, but it is a rather one-sided manure, rich in nitrogen, so that applications of potash and phosphate will be needed. Wood ashes will supply the potash, but they should never be mixed with the hen manure before they are applied. Kainit will also supply potash, and can be mixed with manure, tending to conserve the ammonia. Lime is a fine thing to have about the hen house, but it should not be mixed with the manure.

There is no marked improvement made in recent years in any kind of stock than in poultry of all classes. There are many mongrels yet to be found in town and country, but the original, unimproved barnyard fowl has about disappeared from the haunts of civilization, says *Texas Farm and Ranch*. A few may yet be found in the darkest corners of the backwoods precincts, but even this may be doubted without

## WHITE WYANDOTTES, GOLDEN EGG STRAIN.

The reports of hatches are mainly very satisfactory. Either a good hatch of "most beautiful chicks I ever saw," or "the number was small but the chickens are fine and growing splendidly."

The Golden Eggs Grow. Individuals of those April chickens weigh 5 1-2 lbs. each.

WM. E. SARGENT, Lancaster, Mass.

## LICE AND BAD LUCK

Keep your poultry free from lice and you will have no trouble with other diseases.

### PIKE'S LICE DESTROYER

will kill the lice and mites or money refunded.

Send for circulars and prices.

**SPRAGUE COMMISSION CO.,**  
218 South Water Street, Chicago, Ill.

## The Fanciers' Review,

CHATHAM, N. Y.

A 16-page Poultry Journal of National Circulation.

**50 Cts. a Year,** including a

Your choice of one of the following: "Art of Poultry Breeding;" or "Uncle 'Rastus' Poultry Book" (humorous). Without book, the price of the paper is

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absurdity. The extant mongrels are not by any means an ordinary fowl, but a mixture of various improved breeds—for this is the real definition of the word mongrel—and are, consequently, a vast improvement on the common fowls of the olden time. A large majority of poultry raisers will not take the pains necessary to keep breeds pure, and for these, mongrels or crosses are just as good as any. In fact, well-kept mongrels are better than neglected pure-bred fowls.

## People We Know.

*Facts and News Gleaned Especially for A FEW HENS About People We Know.*

The Necessity Manufacturing Co., Dawson, Pa., has just issued a circular giving the value of clover as poultry food.

The second edition of the book "Broilers for Profit" has just been issued. It will be sent to any address for 50 cents. Address this office.

Will. S. Heller, Napoleon, Ohio, writes A FEW HENS that C. D. Holepeter, of that place, breeder of S. C. Brown Leghorns, died July 8th, aged 30 years.

A very neat catalogue of Fishers Island Farm, (Poultry Division), Fishers Island, N. Y., has just been received. This farm makes a specialty of Brouze and White Holland turkeys, Barred, Buff and White Plymouth Rocks, Cornish Indian and White Indian Games, Mallard and Decoy ducks, and Canada Wild geese.

The F. C. Stearns & Co., manufacturers of the Webster & Hannum Green Bone Cutter, Syracuse, N. Y., have forwarded us an opinion by P. H. Jacobs, editor *Poultry Keeper*, on preparing bones for feeding to dogs. He shows the value of a bone cutter for properly cutting the bone in a mess of the appearance of sausage. He says: "Dog meat may be kept for months even without protection from the air by first cutting the bone and adhering meat with the bone cutter and subjecting the meat to the fumes of burning sulphur, which is done by placing the meat in a box having a lid (such as an old trunk), setting fire to a few spoonfuls of sulphur, closing the lid and keeping it closed for about twenty minutes. A sulphur candle is excellent for this purpose. The sulphurous acid gas not only destroys and prevents decomposition and destroys the germs of disease (if any) but preserves the cut bone for six months or more. To make dog cakes, take one pound of cut bone, one pound of middlings, two pounds fine cornmeal, and one tablespoonful of salt, mix thoroughly and bake hard in thick cakes like crackers."

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